

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Holy ...
Enter the Saint again, after 56 years: Profile looks at the long career of Leslie Charteris and his apparently indestructible hero, whose fiftieth anniversary appears next week.

Alliance
Britain spends £25m a year keeping a garrison in Belize, but for how long? And how will British actions affect stability in Central America?

Printed ...
The Books Page gazes into the future and into the oceans, and features aristocrats and old boy networks.

Circuit
British football clubs have done well on the European trail again. Can they sustain their challenge?

Spain and Portugal get go-ahead

Negotiations on the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC can now begin in earnest. The main obstacle until now, ways of marketing agricultural products from the Mediterranean, has been unexpectedly removed.

NHS spending '£25m down'

Health service spending is down by £25m on last year, health authorities have told the Government. They say patients will suffer if there are any more cuts.

Airport pact

Leaders of Lebanon's Government and opposition factions have agreed after weeks of squabbling, to discuss the country's political future at Beirut airport.

Waldorf case

The jury in the Steven Waldorf shooting case was told that the issue was whether the policeman accused had acted in self-defence within the law.

Late trains

Forty-two per cent of British Rail's Inter-City trains were late in June, the Central Transport Consultative Committee said.

Agca relives it

Traffic in central Rome stopped for three hours as Mehmet Ali Agca, serving a life sentence for shooting Pope John Paul II, reenacted his assassination attempt.

US spy case

The man accused of selling American missile secrets to Poland is being held without bail.

Leader page, 13
Letters: On God as a person, from Professor R. Sharrock, and others; Mr Parkinson and *The Times*; from Mrs E. Sowers, and others; chess in France, from Lady Henderson.

Leading articles: Mr King and the unions; President Reagan's Cabinet; Kidney dialysis; Features, pages 10-12: West Germany's anti-American mood; Atlee, Thatcher and the Whitehall machine; Spectrum: Buddha and bullets; Wednesday Page: Penelope Keith; Joanna Lumley's Diary; *The Times* Cook; Obituary, page 14: Professor Bernard Blackstone, Sir Tom Hickinbotham.

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Navy orders new generation of anti-sub frigates

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy has adopted a new class of frigate - the Type 23 - to be the backbone of its anti-submarine surface force until the end of the century. It has been designed to operate with exceptional quiet and be virtually invisible to attacking missiles.

The first frigate is expected to be ordered next year at a cost of about £100 million from Yarrow Shipbuilders on Clydeside. From about the end of 1985, further Type 23s will be ordered from British shipyards on the basis of competitive tendering.

From then on the Navy expects to be ordering Type 23s at the rate of about three a year. There are expected ultimately to be between eight and 12 ships of this design built, but they will be followed by a so-called "Batch 2", a development of the Type 23 in the 1990s.

The decision to go ahead with Type 23 was announced yesterday by Mr Ian Stewart, Under-Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, before moving to take up his new appointment as

its prey and its noise will not obstruct its own sonar systems as they listen for enemy submarines.

It has been carefully designed to produce a low profile and the minimum possible radar echo. The Navy hopes it will prove virtually undetectable by attacking missiles.

It will carry a large helicopter, such as the Sea King, or its eventual successor, the EH101, capable of making long-range attacks on submarines using the new Stingray torpedo.

The vertically launched Sea Wolf missile will be its defence against surface-skimming missiles, and it will also have its own sea-skimming missile as the main weapon against other surface vessels. A 4.5in gun is mounted for shore bombardment.

Design has been influenced by the Falklands experience. Among the lessons were the need for defence against surface skimmers and for greatly improved ways of preventing smoke from spreading if the ship is hit.

The frigates will have a standard displacement of 3,000 tonnes, a length of 123 metres at the waterline, and a beam of 15 metres.

The £100m cost compares with more than £130m for the Type 22 frigates being built at present. It will also be cheaper, with a crew of about 143, to operate than Type 22, which has roughly 100 more.

The decision to go ahead with Type 23 constitutes final defeat for a small firm of naval

Artist's impression of Navy's new submarine killer.

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Reagan men set the ball rolling

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan re-election campaign is off and running but the President's strategy is not. Although Mr Reagan has approved the formation of a re-election committee, which legally makes him a candidate in next year's presidential race, he has now indicated that he will not finally make up his mind on whether or not to seek a second term until the end of the year, possibly even next January.

One reason for the delay is that the President believes he will bow out of the race as late as possible in order to ensure that he enters the race. Another is that he wants to continue his regular Saturday radio broadcasts for as long as possible without triggering the equal time provisions of the Federal Broadcasting Act.

Some observers believe the delay is a sign that Mr Reagan is having serious doubts about running again. They predict he will bow out of the race as late as possible in order to ensure that he enters the race. Another is that he wants to continue his regular Saturday radio broadcasts for as long as possible without triggering the equal time provisions of the Federal Broadcasting Act.

They are proceeding as though he has already crossed the starting line. A "Reagan-Bush '84 Committee" office has been opened on Capitol Hill and a campaign staff has been appointed which bears a strong resemblance to the team which engineered President Reagan's 1980 victory.

It is headed by Senator Paul Laxalt, the President's closest confidant in Congress and general chairman of the Republican Party. Mr Drew Lewis,

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Government likely to overspend by £1bn

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Heavy state borrowing in the first half of this financial year means that the Government has little chance of meeting its £8.2 billion borrowing target for 1983-84, despite the emergency measures announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in July.

City experts believe that the overshoot could amount to more than £1 billion.

Official figures released yesterday show that the public sector - central government, town halls and state industries - borrowed £3.2 billion between June and September, bringing the total for the first half of 1983-84 to £7 billion.

Government finances are normally much more healthy in the second half of the year as the tax-gathering season gets into its stride. In addition, most of the impact of the Chancellor's £1 billion package of spending cuts and asset sales has yet to be felt.

But few City analysts believe that the Government will be able to keep public borrowing down to only £1.2 billion in the second half of the year, and most are predicting an overshoot of between £1 billion and £1.5 billion.

A new Treasury forecast will be published at the time of the Chancellor's autumn statement,

probably next month. The unpublished summer forecast, which predicted a public sector borrowing requirement of more than £11 billion, was the main reason why the Chancellor decided on emergency action in July.

The chief problem has been a substantial overrun by government departments on spending, which has been growing nearly twice as fast as predicted.

The Chancellor hoped his swift move to curb spending would have had not only a financial but also a psychological impact on departments to keep within budget. But the latest figures on central government spending suggest that the measures have yet to bite.

Public borrowing in the second half of the financial year is typically about half that in the first. From that must be subtracted £500m of spending cuts, and about £650m of asset sales still to come. This could include sales of shares in Cable and Wireless if the scheduled sell-off of the British Gas Corporation's former oil interests fails to raise the target sum.

Revenues too are buoyant, especially from North Sea oil which is expected to bring in about £750m more than predicted at Budget time. But this still leaves the Government well over target.

Man charged with murder of two women

A man was due to appear before magistrates at Aldershot this morning, charged with the murder of two women in the Hampshire town in May last year.

Mrs Margaret Johnson, aged 66, and Mrs Ann Lee, aged 44, had suffered multiple stab wounds during an attack while walking their dogs. The accused man, aged 21, was arrested yesterday in Bournemouth.

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Four children found dead in bedroom

Four children aged two to eight, were found dead in a bedroom of a house in Dingwall, near Inverness, yesterday.

Police said a man was found seriously injured.

"The matter is being treated as a crime and a full report will be made to the procurator fiscal", they said.

The injured man, who was taken to hospital, was not named.



Royal patron: Princess Caroline of Monaco opened a new intensive care unit at the Princess Grace Hospital in Marylebone yesterday in her new role as patron.

Gummer is given pay rise for same job

By Anthony Berins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister awarded Mr John Selwyn Gummer, the Conservative Party chairman, a 19 per cent pay rise yesterday and a new ministerial title for no extra duties at the Department of Employment.

Downing Street announced that Mr Gummer had been promoted from under-secretary to minister of state, increasing his ministerial salary from £14,460 to £19,410. He will continue to receive the same £11,000 parliamentary allowance.

It was also stated that his department responsibilities would be unchanged, although there has been some suggestion from within the department that since he became party chairman his official workload diminished markedly.

Some senior Conservative backbench sources criticized the decision, saying privately that party office should not be rewarded from public funds.

There was some embarrassment in Whitehall yesterday when questions were put about the taxpayer paying for a party appointment. That was lessened by the counter argument that as party chairman he might be asked to attend Cabinet, and that Mr Gummer had the extra responsibility of ensuring liaison between Government and party.

Downing Street confirmed yesterday that when Mr Cecil Parkinson served as party chairman and Cabinet minister, first as Paymaster-General and then, additionally, as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, he drew no ministerial salary.

It was also disclosed that any legislation on the trade unions' political levy would be done by Mr Alan Clark, the remaining parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of Employment.

Mr Gummer's new appointment was one of five ministerial adjustments announced yesterday after Sunday's mini-shuffle of the Cabinet in the wake of Mr Parkinson's resignation.

The new Financial Secretary to the Treasury, replacing Mr Nicholas Ridley, who has been made Secretary of State for Transport, is Mr John Moore.

He has been replaced as Economic Secretary to the Treasury by Mr Ian Stewart, the former Under Secretary for

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Supporters to fight on Yorkshire stand by Boycott decision

By Peter Ball

Geoffrey Boycott will not play for Yorkshire next season. Yesterday's meetings of the Yorkshire Cricket and General committees at Headingley, Leeds, reaffirmed the decision taken two weeks ago not to offer Boycott a new contract.

The decision brought a sharp reaction from the supporters of Boycott on and off the committees. Detective Sergeant Sid Fielden, Boycott's closest ally on the committee, said: "It is a triumph for human folly. They are jealous men, whose jealousy of one man has turned into hatred. They are uncharitable men who have denied a man the opportunity of playing cricket for another testimonial season, and they are foolish men who have refused to heed the wishes of members of the club."

Another Boycott supporter, the Bradford businessman Robert Slicer, added: "They have committed the county not to reconstruction but to its destruction."

Speaking from his home in Woolley, near Wakefield, Boycott himself was more guarded, expressing his thanks for the support he had received and his good wishes to the new captain David Bairstow. He added: "I can only say again that I wish I had been given a chance to play out my testimonial year before leaving on a happy note."

This is unlikely to satisfy Boycott's supporters. The members of the committee supporting him held a press conference in the offices of Radio Aire after the committee statement, and plans are going ahead for a signature gathering meeting at Ossett on Sunday to convene a special general meeting of the club.

Hawk wins Knesset approval

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The hardline character of the new Israeli Government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir was reinforced yesterday when Mr Yigal Cohen-Orad was approved as Finance Minister by a comfortable 60-48 vote in the Knesset.

The new minister takes over with Israel suffering its gravest economic crisis and the rate of inflation expected soon to exceed 150 per cent. One of his first tasks will be to try to restore public confidence in the country's financial institutions.

Only hours before the vote was taken, Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, said that Israel's defence spending, already some 23.5 per cent of the national budget, will have to go on rising. Liked risk, page 6

Lloyd's loss hits tennis stars

By Andrew Cornelius

Tennis stars Mr Mark Cox and Miss Virginia Wade and more than 200 other wealthy "names" stand to lose an average of £60,000 each after the Lloyd's of London insurance syndicate which they backed ceased trading.

Under the terms which govern membership of the Lloyd's market, the names stand to share losses of £13.1m incurred by marine insurance underwriting syndicate 895 by the time it ceased trading at the end of last year.

The losses have been uncovered after an investigation into the syndicate by Spicer & White (Underwriting Agencies) which managed the syndicate's affairs.

Mr Peter Pepper, who undertook the investigation, yesterday blamed the losses on a combination of overwriting of business by the syndicate above the limits predetermined by the Lloyd's authorities and on poor underwriting.

In particular, he said, the syndicate had switched the emphasis of its insurance underwriting business, an area where claims are settled over longer periods of time, but where competition has been fierce in recent years.

The combination of low premiums brought about by intense competition and a poor claims record led to the huge losses which eventually forced the closure of the syndicate.

Mr Cox said last night: "It has been clear for some time that this syndicate had suffered a substantial amount of losses. You go into this sort of situation with your eyes open and realizing there are risks."

Mr Cox, like other names, who have to prove wealth of £100,000 before being allowed to invest in the market, has spread his risk and is a member of other syndicates.

The losses incurred by 895 are the highest recorded by an individual syndicate at Lloyd's since the £20m collapse of the Sasse syndicate in 1974.

The problems at Sasse were also caused by the combination of taking on poor insurance risks, in the Harlem area of New York, and overtrading.

The investigation into the affairs of Syndicate 895 shows that, despite the worsening underwriting climate, the number of members risking their wealth with the syndicate increased from 116 to 235 between 1979 and 1982.

It shows that for each £20,000 line of business transacted, names will lose £20,000.

The problems at syndicate 895 are the latest to tarnish the image of Lloyd's. The insurance market has been rocked by a series of scandals which has prompted investigations by the Department of Trade and the police into the affairs of Minet Holdings and Alexander Howden, two of the leading Lloyd's insurance broking firms.

A GENTLEMAN'S SHAVING FOAM

CHANEL

Entente cordiale

CHANEL FOR GENTLEMEN

Waldorf jury told to decide if detectives acted in self-defence

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

The jury trying two detectives for the shooting of Mr Steven Waldorf was given a warning yesterday that the issue before it was not whether police should be armed or whether someone had to pay for the shooting but whether the policeman had acted in self-defence within the law.

Summing up at the Central Criminal Court, Mr Justice Croom-Johnson said that the shooting last January, when Mr Waldorf was mistaken for a dangerous fugitive, had occurred "when there was and still is a great debate in this country about law and order".

But the eight women and four men were not being asked to decide "whether the police should be armed or whether the general policy of crime enforcement and law and order is being satisfactorily dealt with in this country now". Nor were they being asked to decide the changes in a state of mind that "oh, the police have shot the wrong man. Somebody must pay. Someone was at fault".

Det Constable Peter Finch, aged 38, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of wounding Mr Waldorf with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Det Constable John Jardine, aged 38, has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The first charge Constable Finch faces concerns the shooting of Mr Waldorf and the second refers to the subsequent pistol-whipping him as he lay injured.

Constable Jardine faces charges which both relate to shooting Mr Waldorf.

The judge told the jury: "It is both good law and good sense that a man who is attacked may defend himself. He may do, but only do, what is reasonably necessary for that purpose." If an attack was serious or potentially serious then immediate defensive action might be taken.

"If it is necessary to kill in self-defence the law recognizes that possibility," he said. The law also recognized the need sometimes for a pre-emptive strike to avoid danger.

The judge said that the state of mind of the policeman and their intentions were the facts on which the jury had to decide. If the prosecution had proved that the officers had not acted in reasonable self-defence the jury would have to decide what was their intention.

The judge said that once the jury accepted that the

Mr Justice Croom-Johnson: Began summing up.

Constables had made genuine mistakes, they must put themselves in the detectives' position, believing that David Martin was in the car.

"If you think in a moment of sudden and unexpected peril that [the] person only did what he thought was necessary, honest and instinctive then you would think it very strong evidence that only reasonable defensive action was taken."

The judge said that Martin's background, criminal record and recent history were of great importance.

He told the jury that it was not so much concerned with the detectives' firearms training as with their training on when and when not to shoot.

"The Metropolitan Police rules for the use of firearms should normally be obeyed by police. But because someone may occasionally step outside the rule, it does not mean to say the law of the land in relation to self-defence does not apply."

Earlier, Mr Michael Corkey QC, for Constable Finch, of Croydon Green, Hertfordshire, said that his client had laboured under a nightmare for the past nine months. Shocked after the shooting, he still answered investigators frankly.

Mr John Matthew QC, for Constable Jardine, of Pinner north-west London, said that the detective was "an ordinary copper" who wanted to continue with his "unspectacular but worthy career".

The trial was adjourned until today, when the judge will complete his summing-up.



Taking care of killers

A kestrel perching on the gloved hand of Jade Hare, aged three, whose parents run the Raptor Centre at Chilham Castle near Canterbury (Stephen Goodwin writes).

Founded in early 1977, the centre is devoted solely to the conservation of birds of prey.

By giving demonstrations, flying birds free in the castle grounds, and receiving school visits, Eddie and Liz Hare hope to arouse more interest in birds of prey. The centre offers a 24-hour rescue service for sick or injured birds. If they are too badly injured to be released later the Hares house them in pairs and release any offspring. (Photograph: John Manning).

BBC to unveil Radio 4 changes

By David Hewson

The BBC will unveil some of its long-awaited plans to reshape Radio 4 today and hope that they will quell fears that the station is on the verge of going downmarket in search of larger audiences.

Mr David Hatch, the former head of Radio 2, who took over as controller of Radio 4 in June, is expected to announce a modest reshuffle of the station's evening schedules. BBC executives have also been testing pilot programmes designed to extend the morning run of popular material such as *Start The Week* until midday.

It is understood that from next January, Mr Hatch hopes to introduce new schedules for Radio 4's evening programmes. *Kaleidoscope* will start at 9.45pm, 15 minutes later than at present, partly to enable it to carry reviews of theatre premieres. *A Book at Bedtime* will be brought forward 45 minutes to 10.15pm. The *Financial World Tonight*, which is now a self-contained 15-minute pro-

gramme, will become part of *The World Tonight*, which will be extended from 30 minutes to an hour starting at 10.30pm.

Mr Hatch is expected to confirm the late-night changes today and to talk about the station's programme philosophy in his first press conference since taking on the job. But fears that Radio 4 might become an all news and current affairs station, as once rumoured, are unlikely to be confirmed by today's announcements.

BBC sources indicated that Mr Hatch's comments are only the beginning of the reshaping of Radio 4, however. The corporation is looking closely at its popular early morning *Today* programme and considering extending the current affairs and chat format until midday.

Richard Baker, the former newsreader, who now presents *Omnibus* and Radio 4's *Start The Week*, is due to record a three-hour pilot show for the new morning slot on Saturday.

The pilot, which is to be produced by Mr Ian Guardhouse, who has also produced *Start The Week*, will include the morning service and contain several of the new elements of *Today*.

Mr Bryan Marriott, the controller of Radio 2, defended his decision to drop Mr Pete Murray and Mr Ed "Stewpot" Stewart yesterday.

"I am not prepared to let the network stagnate, and Pete Murray's style of broadcasting is dated," Mr Marriott said. "It is time to inject new blood into our programming."

Mr Steve Jones who has presented television game shows is to take over Miss Gloria Hunniford's lunchtime show when she moves to Mr Stewart's afternoon slot. Mr Ken Bruce, a Scottish broadcaster, is to take over one of Mr Murray's weekend shows and the second will be replaced by a jazz programme. The BBC said it planned to employ Mr Stewart in an unspecified role in the future.

Open door led to Woolworth theft spree

A woman who found the back door of a Woolworth store left open after closing time and stole goods worth more than £750 was given a six-month jail sentence suspended for two years yesterday.

Mrs Patricia Millar, aged 39, the mother of five children, pleaded guilty to stealing from the Colchester store.

The town's magistrates were told that Mrs Millar, of Dibley Road, Colchester, took six nightdresses, five scarves, a housecoat, two dressing gowns, five body-warmers, a jacket, two skirts, eight dresses, 84 items of baby clothing, four pairs of sandals, a torch, 10 shirts, five tee-shirts, 88 pairs of socks, two shopping trolleys, a sports bag and four shopping bags.

The court was told that word got round that the back door of the store was open on Saturday August 13 and goods worth £9,500 vanished. A total of six people were charged.

£1,000 fine for fare dodger

A company director who altered his season ticket and fraudulently used it for a year was fined a total of £1,000 by Croydon magistrates yesterday.

Reginald Booker, aged 41, of Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex, admitted altering a season ticket, falsely using it, and dishonestly obtaining a rail journey between Three Bridges and Victoria. He asked for 132 similar offences to be taken into consideration.

Greyhounds to be put down

About 40 greyhounds will have to be put down because of the closure of the Gloucester greyhound stadium this weekend, Mr Sam Ray, a trainer, said yesterday. He said it would be impossible to find new kennels for all the 150 hounds kept at the stadium and some would have to be destroyed. The stadium will close after Saturday night's race meeting because the site is to be developed.

Plastic pound in the pocket

The Isle of Man's plastic £1 notes, which are virtually indestructible, go into circulation in six weeks. The Manx Treasury wants to retain £1 notes just as Britain plans to replace them with £1 coins. The green plastic notes, in a material called Bradvek, are expected to last 15 years.

Girl's killer gets life sentence

Robert Astley, aged 24, was jailed for life by Birmingham Crown Court yesterday for the murder of Denise Bradbury, aged two, last May.

Astley, of Finchley Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham, had pleaded guilty to murdering the girl whose body was found in a car on wasteland. As he was sentenced a scuffle broke out between the girl's family and relatives of the accused.

MP's plan for contract dialysis

By Richard Dowden

Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex South-east, has urged Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, to act to alleviate the plight of National Health Service kidney patients.

In a letter to the minister Sir Bernard asks him to introduce a system of "contractual dialysis", which would involve private companies providing dialysis to reduce the strain on health service resources.

According to Mrs Elizabeth Ward, founder and president of the British Kidney Patient Association, at least 2,000 people suffering from renal failure die every year.

"With the very severe cuts in this area of the health service the number could rise by a further 55", she said. Her organization campaigns to provide dialysis for all patients who suffer from renal failure.

"I am convinced that a system of contractual dialysis would save many lives and at the same time release valuable NHS resources for other projects", Sir Bernard said.

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Appeal for £12m to fight child abuse

A national campaign to raise £12m next year to combat child abuse was launched on London yesterday, backed by Princess Margaret and the Prime Minister.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children says that a baby each week from injuries inflicted by parents. Many more are maimed. It is marking its 184th anniversary by launching the campaign from which it intends to set up a national network of 60 child protection teams over the next five years. The first will open by the end of 1984.

Dr Alan Gilmore, director of the society, said: "In this way we shall be able to respond even more effectively to children and parents in need." The teams will bring together the society's services and expertise, including inspectors, family centres, play groups and special units to work within communities.

Dr Gilmore said that 50,000 babies a year suffered physical or mental torture, gross neglect, sexual abuse or emotional starvation.

The appeal will be headed by the Duke of Westminster and

backed by 60 local committees. In a message of support, Princess Margaret, the society's president, said: "It seems incredible that in this country still thousands of children every year suffer from neglect, physical or mental cruelty - or are just unloved."

Mrs Thatcher said: "It is profoundly sad that we still need a society to prevent cruelty to children. But we do."

A publicity campaign will be launched in the new year. Poster sites will carry pictures of battered children from 100 years ago and today. The message reads: "The faces change. The bruises don't."

The society is spending £250,000 on advertising and mailing, in spite of a financial crisis in which it has spent £2m from reserves in the past three years.

At a regional launching of the appeal in Manchester, Mr Neil Todd, head of a "battered baby" unit in the Fallowfield district, said reports of the sexual-abuse of children have shown an "extremely worrying" increase over the past year.

Rights group concern over action on kerb crawlers

From Our Own Correspondent

The National Council for Civil Liberties said yesterday that it was concerned about the police action against kerb crawlers in Nottingham's vice district which led to 13 men being bound over in the sum of £100 to keep the peace for a year.

The council said: "We are concerned for the rights of women not to be molested or solicited as they walk along the streets. But we are also worried about the blanket method in which the law was applied in order to catch a large number of people."

The council said there was a risk of innocent people being caught in such an operation.

The men were summoned under a law which dates back to 1561 that was designed to protect "merchants and others" passing along the highways of the realm from being disturbed.

Nottingham's vice-squad disclosed yesterday that a further 30 men are to appear

TV hitch may be curbed

By a Staff Reporter

The legal loophole that allows hotels to place a television set in every bedroom but pay only one broadcasting licence may soon be closed by new legislation.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, revealed that the department was reviewing the licence anomaly when he launched a campaign against licence dodging yesterday. At the moment hotels pay for more than one television licence only if they have rooms for long-term guests.

Critics of the way the licence

system works have pointed out for some years that modern hotels frequently offer hundreds of colour televisions in their rooms for a total cost of £46 a year.

But any change in the law is likely to be bitterly contested by hoteliers, who say that they could not afford the sharp rise in operating costs.

Mr Hurd unveiled the Home Office's new television detector van which is 10 times more sensitive in tracking down sets. A fleet of 22 vans started work in London yesterday. They will tour the country.

Peugeot's hopes on 'supermini'

By Clifford Webb

A new Peugeot "supermini" which its makers hope will restore the flagging United Kingdom fortunes of the largest French motor manufacturer is among several new cars making their British debuts at Motorfair the dealer-orientated car show which opens in Earls Court, London, tomorrow.

The Peugeot 205 is already a success in France having captured 6 per cent of the market in its first nine months and replaces the 104 which failed to make any impression on British motorists.

Just over 12ft long compared with Metro's 11ft 2in and the Escort's 13ft 4in, the 205 will straddle two car categories. A new type of rear suspension provides excellent roadholding and a comfortable ride.



French challenger: The Peugeot 205 GL

Also making its British debut is the latest offering from Hyundai of South Korea which entered the United Kingdom market only 18 months ago with the smaller Pony. The new Hyundai Stellar is aimed at the 1.6 medium saloon market and is very much in the Ford Cortina mould with rear-wheel drive and generous passenger and luggage room.

BMW is showing what it claims to be the world's first

dual personality automatic gearbox. A small switch on the gearchange console selects high gear ratios for economy or lower "sports" ratios for fast acceleration. It will cost £315 and will be available on top range 6 and 7 series BMWs.

New to Britain is the BMW 318i which uses a fuel injected version of the BMW 316s 1800cc engine. It is expected to sell well in the company car sector.

Lock up glue, MP says

Mr Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, appealed yesterday to hardware stores to make it harder for young people to obtain potentially dangerous brands of glue.

"It is impossible to ban glue from shops, but it is entirely reasonable to ask shopkeepers to keep any brand which is

known to be potentially dangerous locked up or behind the counter," he said.

Mr Janner has been approached in the past few weeks by several parents whose children have become addicted.

More than 100 young people died because of glue sniffing in 1981 and 1982.

Elephant's death prompts zoo policy review

By Thomson Prestice

A lethal injection finally put Pole Pole, the 17-year-old African elephant at Regent's Park Zoo, out of her misery on Monday night. But she had never been a very happy animal.

"She may just have decided to lie down and die", according to Mr David Jones, assistant director of London Zoo. What ever the reason, once Pole Pole went down, no amount of pushing and pulling with winches and slings could get her up again.

Orphaned as a baby by a cull in Kenya, her potential mates massacred by poachers, Pole Pole achieved brief love and affection as the star of a film. Her name in Swahili means "Slowly, Slowly", and it was in *An Elephant Called Slowly* that she appeared with Virginia McKenna in 1967.

Pole Pole came to Regent's Park in 1968, but Mr Jones

said she had always been a very difficult animal "and could be a dangerous one". Miss McKenna cried yesterday when she heard the news; her husband, Mr Bill Travers, reacted angrily.

"In the last two years the great concern of people who went to see her was her miserable condition", he said. "This does raise the issue whether animals like this can really be kept successfully in captivity."

He and Miss McKenna had been campaigning to have Pole Pole returned to her natural habitat in Africa. But Mr Jones said the zoo had made inquiries and concluded that no suitable place in Africa could be found for her.

Plans were made to transfer her instead to Whipsnade zoo, but last week the animal became trapped in a transport container and showed signs of

illness after being freed. She was sedated and examined on Monday, but when the anaesthetic wore off she could not get up again. "We tried throughout the day, but by last night it was quite obvious that she was not going to rise", Mr Jones said.

"One knows from experience that if an animal of that weight - she was almost four tons - will not get up within two to three hours, then mechanical aids just upset her even more. She would have died of exhaustion."

Part of the explanation for Pole Pole's unhappy existence at the zoo was that she had not been trained, Mr Jones said. "When she first came to us there was a move not to train animals too much." As a result she was less adaptable and more difficult to handle.

The zoo will now change its policy and in future elephants will be thoroughly trained, he said. As an example, Dilbert,

a three-year-old Asian elephant was shown ambulating around the zoo yesterday, escorted by a keeper. Pole Pole had been kept in the concrete and brick elephant house, which Mr Jones said was unsuitable for wild, untrained animals.

"It was built for tame elephants, and it is fine for them."

"This is a very sad day", her keeper, Mr William James, said. "We worked for many hours trying to get Pole Pole up and the staff became more and more depressed when we realized that it would not work."

The zoo is now looking for a second baby elephant as a companion for Dilbert. "We had to keep Pole Pole away from the baby because she would almost certainly have killed it", Mr James said. "She was a dangerous animal and has knocked several people down."

How you can help stop this cruelty



Today, in South Korea, thousands of loveable dogs and cats just like yours are suffering truly monstrous cruelty as they are killed for a luxury food for humans. A South Korean member of an International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) anti-cruelty team has seen cats thrown alive and conscious into iron kettles of boiling water.

IFAW team leader, Englishman John Nye, recently took the picture you see here in the northern city of Tongduchon. When he tried to interfere with the slow strangling "there was a heated confrontation on the verge of violence."

IFAW will not be deterred by threats... our anti-cruelty teams are going back. But we urgently need your financial support and your protest to the Korean Ambassador.

MY PROTEST TO THE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR
I solemnly support IFAW's demand for an end to atrocities to animals in your Country.

Name (please print) _____
Address _____
Post code _____
(IFAW) will present this protest on your behalf.

I also enclose £ _____ to help IFAW work for animals worldwide.
Please send this protest and your donation to:
International Fund for Animal Welfare,
Section 105 Tavistock House, New Road,
CROWBOROUGH,
East Sussex
TN8 2QH
IFAW

Grammar school borough is blamed for poor teaching

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A tough report on the Conservative-controlled London borough of Sutton, which has retained its grammar schools, was issued yesterday by the schools inspectors (HMI).

The report said that many of the 44 primary and 16 secondary schools were characterized "by over-direction by the teachers and passivity by the pupils, many of whom, particularly the most able, are not sufficiently extended".

"A combination of tightly controlled staffing levels and below average levels of funding for primary and secondary pupils leads to teachers not having enough time to plan, let alone the means to implement new courses to respond to pupils' needs, national initiatives and changing social and economic conditions."

The report, compiled between 1979 and 1982 by 76 inspectors who spent 460 days in the borough, says that the lack of resources is particularly acute in the small secondary modern schools. "The development of a better balance of practical and theoretical learning across the curriculum is impeded by general shortages of resources and schools' inability to replace obsolescent books and equipment."

In two primary schools parents contributed more money in 1981-82 than the local authority gave in the General School Allowance. The money was used to buy audio-visual aids, large items of equipment and books.

The report says that the local school inspectorate is too small and lacks the range of qualifications needed to give schools guidance. It says that Sutton's pupil-teacher ratio in primary schools of 24.9 to one was the worst of all English local educational authorities in 1981-82. The secondary ratio of 17.1

to one was below the national average.

In primary schools much of the work was narrow in conception and the standards only high in mathematics and English, the inspectors said. In secondary schools from the fourth year up "the perceived demands of public examination appear to exercise an undue and restrictive influence on the curriculum and on the work of pupils".

While the inspectors emphasized that the need of the academically more able pupils were not fully understood and that their curiosity had not been aroused, they said that examination results were good.

Dr David Trafford, leader of Sutton Council, said yesterday that the report was idealistic and showed a slight political bias against the selective system.

He will table a motion at the next council meeting which says: "We acknowledge that our emphasis on traditional teaching methods as a means of preparation for public examinations leads to a less broad approach to the teaching of the curriculum. However, we believe that basic literacy and numeracy in the primary school and a thorough preparation for examinations at secondary level are what the parents of this area expect, and we have no intention of making changes in our approach to the curriculum at the expense of these basic educational aims."

"The Secretary of State for Education and Science will be informed that the staffing and resource implications of the report are incompatible with the Department of the Environment's expenditure targets and we find reports of this type emanating from a government department are less than helpful."

Motorways 'in state of thrombosis'

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The Government should make immediate provision in its next Budget to improve and expand the motorway system, the president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said last night.

Mr George Turnbull, speaking at the society's annual dinner, said the motorway system was abysmally short and "suffering from an advanced state of thrombosis".

He told of his own experiences as a weekly traveller between London and his home in the Midlands. "This means I use the M1 a great deal and I cannot recall a single occasion during the past five years when I have not had to contend with contrailroads, crowded-off lanes, diversions and a programme of almost continuous maintenance."

He said he wished he had had the presence of mind to invest in companies making the red and white plastic cones which have become all too familiar on our roads.

Like many others he had become increasingly disturbed that we consistently underinvest the national budget allocated for roads. The £10bn raised in taxation from the motorist and other road users was three times the actual amount spent on roads.

Mr Turnbull continued: "There is no doubt in my mind that the environmental lobby has gained a lot of public sympathy for issues like the appalling state of our roads."

London facing years of chaos, Livingstone says

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

London faces several years of disruption in such important municipal services as fire and transport, Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council said yesterday.

Presenting the Labour majority's response to the recent White Paper on local government, he told the council of "the appalling potential for conflict and disorder" contained in the Government's simultaneous plans to cut the rates of high spending councils and abolish the GLC.

Accusing the Government of "cynical manipulation" he envisaged that in May 1985 the democratically-elected GLC would be turned over from Labour to Conservative control as borough politicians took over for a transitional year before abolition in 1986.

"Frankly, I do not know what will happen," the Labour leader said. But he promised both that the Labour members of the GLC would fulfil their manifesto commitments for as long as they were in power and that the London Labour Party would urge Labour councils to secede from any ramshackle joint bodies set up in the GLC's stead.

Mr Livingstone said the

The affluent society of 1983

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Progress towards greater equality in the distribution of wealth virtually came to a halt in the mid-1970s, according to the latest statistics published by the Inland Revenue.

They show that in 1981, the richest 5 per cent of the population owned 45 per cent of total personal wealth in Britain, the same as in 1979 and only fractionally less than the 46 per cent it owned in 1976. In the previous 10 years the share of the richest 5 per cent had fallen sharply from 56 per cent in 1966.

The richest 1 per cent, with wealth valued at more than £100,000 in 1981, saw their share of total wealth drop from 33 per cent in 1966 to 24 per cent in 1976. But it has since stabilized, and it was still 23 per cent in 1981.

The figures relate to marketable wealth, that is, assets that can be sold. Of those by far the most important are people's houses, which accounted for nearly half the £318,000m total in 1979. Insurance policies come next at 17 per cent of total marketable wealth.

Stocks and shares, once a prime source of wealth for the rich, make up only 11 per cent of the total. The distribution of wealth becomes less unequal, although again the trend towards greater equality seems to have ground to a halt in the mid-1970s.

Inland Revenue Statistics, 1982 (Stationery Office £9.50).



Agca stops Rome's traffic

Guarded by armed police in bullet-proof jackets, Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk serving a life sentence for shooting the Pope, is escorted back to Rebibbia prison after renegeing his assassination attempt of May 13, 1981, in front of two Bulgarian magistrates (John Earl writes from Rome).

Traffic in central Rome was held up for three hours yesterday as the Turk went through a lengthy reconstruction. He was given a toy pistol and made to dismount from a car in Via Della Conciliazione, the street in front of St Peter's Square, at the spot where he alleges he was driven by Mr Sergei Antonov, a Bulgarian Airline official held in prison since last November for suspected involvement in the shooting.

The reconstruction, organized by Signor Ilario Martella, the Italian magistrate in charge of the case, was attended by lawyers representing Ali Agca and Mr Antonov and also by the Bulgarian magistrates, Mr Jordan Olmankov and Mr Marko Petov.

Ali Agca claims the Bulgarian Secret Service masterminded the attempt on the Pope. Yesterday Mr Antonov's lawyers said: "For us nothing has changed. We are convinced Mr Antonov has nothing to do with this affair."

Chirac turns union poll into political fight

From Diana Geddes, Paris

For the first time in more than 20 years, French workers, opposition union when he accused students, the self-employed and the CGT and the CFDT of the retired go to the polls today being "the channels of trans-mission of the two main parties which govern the country today". It added "No French man or woman could accept that the social security budget of 900 billion francs (£75 billion) is bigger than the government's annual expenditure."

The managerial and financial aspects of the election, in which about 30 million people over the age of 16 are eligible to vote, have almost been forgotten in the overwhelming interest being shown in its political implications. The opposition has done its utmost to present the election as another national test of confidence in the government.

It has artificially split the five main unions fielding candidates into two camps: the "pro-government revolutionaries", represented by the communist CGT and the Socialist CFDT, and the "reformists" represented by the staunchly independent Force Ouvrière, the Catholic CFTC, and the white-collar CGC.

The "reformists", by no means all of whom see themselves as identified with the opposition, have been given the unsolicited backing of opposition leaders like M. Jacques Chirac and M. Raymond Barre, the National Front, the main employers' organization, and the associations representing the liberal professions.

M. Paul Marchetti, number two in the CGC, which despite its claims of independence is probably the most right-wing of the unions, said:

"In the last national election of union representatives (for Ombudsmen) in December 1982, which involved less than half the number of those eligible to vote today, the CGT obtained 37 per cent of the vote, the CFDT 24 per cent, Force Ouvrière 18 per cent, the CGC 10 per cent, and the CFTC 9 per cent."

San Francisco (AP) - The man who is alleged to have sold vital US defence secrets for \$250,000 (£166,000) began his espionage career after being presented with a Soviet "shopping list" for information by two spies, officials say.

Mr James Duward Harper, a computer consultant, was held without bail yesterday after a brief appearance on Monday before a magistrate on a charge of espionage involving information allegedly passed to Polish spies and routed to the Soviet Union.

Mr Harper is alleged to have obtained photocopies of sensitive defence research through Ruby Louise Schuler, his late wife, who worked for Systems Control Inc, a computer company in Palo Alto, California. "I have no intention of hiring a lawyer," Mr Harper said. "My intent is to cooperate with the Government in every way I

Man in US spy case 'given shopping list'

can to expedite the proceedings."

According to an FBI affidavit filed in the Federal Court, about 100 "extremely sensitive" classified documents - some with Mr Harper's fingerprints - were passed in a series of 14 meetings over a four-and-a-half-year period. They included details about the mini-missile intercontinental missile and materials aimed at helping the United States survive a first-strike nuclear attack.

The secrets apparently were of tremendous value to the KGB which was said to be "extremely excited". Soviet-block intelligence agents twice got commendations on July 22, 1980, for their role in obtaining the materials. The affidavit said the FBI was tipped off in May, 1979, by a high-ranking officer in the Polish intelligence service, which is known as SB.

First polls for a decade

Peronists and Radicals court 18 million voters

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

On October 30, for the first time in 10 years, general elections will be held in Argentina. The country's 17.89 million registered voters will be electing the President; the two Houses of Congress; the provincial governors and legislatures, and the mayors and municipal councillors around the country.

Just under four million members of the electorate, brought up under military rule, will be voting for the first time in their lives.

While there are more than 300 political parties in the country, most are purely local in nature. Only 11 parties or coalitions are putting up presidential candidates.

The Peronists are led by Senator Italo Luder, a 66-year-old constitutional lawyer and former Senate leader. They were the traditional mass party from 1946 and won the elections in 1973 with 62 per cent of the vote, but the death of their charismatic founder, General Juan Domingo Peron, and other problems, are expected to reduce their total this time round.

Senator Raul Alfonsín, the 54-year-old candidate for the Radical Party, is mounting the most serious challenge. The Radicals, essentially a middle class party, have hitherto found it hard to win more than a 25 per cent share of the popular vote. But Senator Alfonsín's popularity, and his attempts to break into Peronism's working class constituency, are now expected to get results. The key issue is whether he can advance enough to snatch the presidency out of Senator Luder's hands.

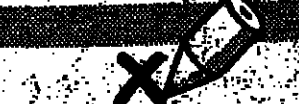
Two parties are battling for third place: the left-wing Intransigents, led by Senator Oscar Alende, a fiery former Governor of Buenos Aires province, and the Movement for Integration and Development, which emphasizes industrialization as the solution to Argentina's chronic instability, and whose candidate is Senator Rogelio Frigerio.

Next in order of the likely results are launched the right-wing Federal Alliance of Senator Francisco Manrique, a former Navy captain; the Christian Democrats under Senator Francisco Cerro; and the centre-left Social Democratic Alliance.

Free market economics are represented by Senator Alvaro Alsogaray, a former Army officer-turned-businessman who leads the Union of the Democratic Centre.

There are also two far-left

ARGENTINE ELECTIONS



parties, of vague Trotskyist inspiration. The Workers' Party is fielding Senator Gregorio Flores, a trade unionist and former political prisoner. The Movement Towards Socialism, led by Senator Luis Zamora, a lawyer and human rights activist. Finally, Senator Guillermo Estevez Boero is standing for the Popular Socialist Party.

The Communist Party, along with a mixed bag of other groups, including the Popular Conservatives and the Party for Social Democracy, is supporting the Peronist candidate.

The presidential elections are indirect, and will be determined by decisions taken together in a 600-member electoral college, or, in the last instance, in a joint sitting of Congress.

The constitutional procedure is particularly important, as there is a high probability that neither

Senator Luder, leader of the Peronists, nor Senator Alfonsín, the Radical candidate, will obtain an absolute majority.

Two senators are elected for each of the country's 24 electoral districts, but the number of deputies varies according to population, from 144 in the densely populated Buenos Aires province down to four in Tierra del Fuego. There will be 48 senators and 252 deputies. Each district produces a number of electoral college members equivalent to twice the sum of its senators and deputies. The electors are chosen on the basis of proportional representation.

The system works to under-represent densely populated areas such as Buenos Aires province, the federal capital, and Cordoba, and to over-represent the least-inhabited provinces. Buenos Aires province, for example, has 35 per cent of the electorate, but will choose only 24 per cent of the 600-strong electoral college.

If no candidate has a majority in the electoral college, alliances are possible. Thus if Senator Alfonsín came a close second in Senator Luder's popular vote, he could still reach the presidency by allying himself with other parties elected in the college, such as those from the intransigents or the Movement for Integration and Development.

While constitutionally possible, such a move may be politically dangerous because the "first majority" would complain bitterly.

Both the Intransigents and the Movement for Integration and Development are not making any promises on whom they will support.

If deadlock prevails in the electoral college, the final decision is taken by a joint sitting of the senators and deputies. Here the same type of alliances will be tried again, but a long drawn-out battle in the electoral college and Congress over choosing the President would lengthen the period of political "drift" in the country, at a time when the foreign debt crisis, among other issues, needs quick decisions.

The current military Government has set the end of January, 1984, as the deadline for handing power to the incoming civilian Government. But with the military regime seen as an increasingly divided and lame duck administration, it is hoped that the date can be brought forward to December 15 or even earlier.

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future of "justice, freedom, and sovereignty" under a peronist government.

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Fights broke out near the platform, and for a moment the possibility of a large-scale riot loomed, as the stadium was over-crowded and the doors had been closed.

Senator Saul Ubaldini, a

Union leader shouted down at rally

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentina's Peronists celebrated their traditional "Loyalty Day" with two mass rallies in Cordoba and Buenos Aires. But at the rally in the capital the crowds booed and hissed a speech by one of the party's senior leaders, pelting him with coins and stones.

More than 100,000 people turned out on the streets of Cordoba, Argentina's second city, to hear a speech by Senator Italo Luder, the party's presidential candidate. The radicals, Senator Luder's main electoral opponents in the polls due on October 30, are particularly strong in Cordoba, and the candidate has been concentrating his efforts there.

The Peronist leader condemned the military government in his speech, promising a

future of "justice, freedom, and sovereignty" under a peronist government.

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Senator Saul Ubaldini, a

popular trade union leader, was able to calm the crowd, however, and Senator Miguel, who had been booed and hissed by the radicals, was able to continue his speech.

His humiliation at the hands of the Peronists rank-and-file shows that the distrust is shared, and may mark the beginning of the end of his role as the "power behind the throne" in the party.

Mendy's rallies were to commemorate October 17, 1945, when mass demonstrations prevented the dismissal of Colonel Juan Domingo Peron from the military Government.

Mr Miguel was booed and hissed by the radicals, who were shouting "Go away" and "Initiators".

Neither man has been reluctant to invoke God during the campaign. Mr Bjelke-Petersen, in particular, has raised the spectre of the godless Labour Party and the dire consequences should the socialists win on Saturday.

As for Mr Terry White, the Liberal Party leader, and the man who was at the centre of the controversy which precipitated the election, his religious attitudes are not public knowledge.

On Monday, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, in a style reminiscent of the Bible belt of the Deep South of the United States, said that atheists, drug addicts, republicans and socialists were poised to destroy Queensland if Labour won power.

He said he believed that many people were unaware of "the atheistic attitude of many Labour people". Not only did they want to take the words "God" and "Queen" out of the national oath of allegiance, as part of their move towards republicanism, but the Premier said, they were determined to get everybody growing and smoking marijuana.

"If these people won power they would ignore and bypass the most important part of

Evangelist and Lutheran battle over Queensland

From Tony Debono, Melbourne

Saturday's state election in Queensland will be as much a clash of religious styles as a political contest. Both the main protagonists are publicly committed Christians.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen, the Premier and National Party leader, is a Lutheran, son of a minister, with a strong fundamentalist streak; while Mr Keith Wright, the Labour leader, is a born-again evangelist.

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"If these people won power they would ignore and bypass the most important part of

living and that is the ethical and Christian part.

"You can have leaders who do not believe or reject parts of the Christian belief. We are a Christian nation, but half the ALP (Australian Labour Party) will not take an oath on the Bible," he said.

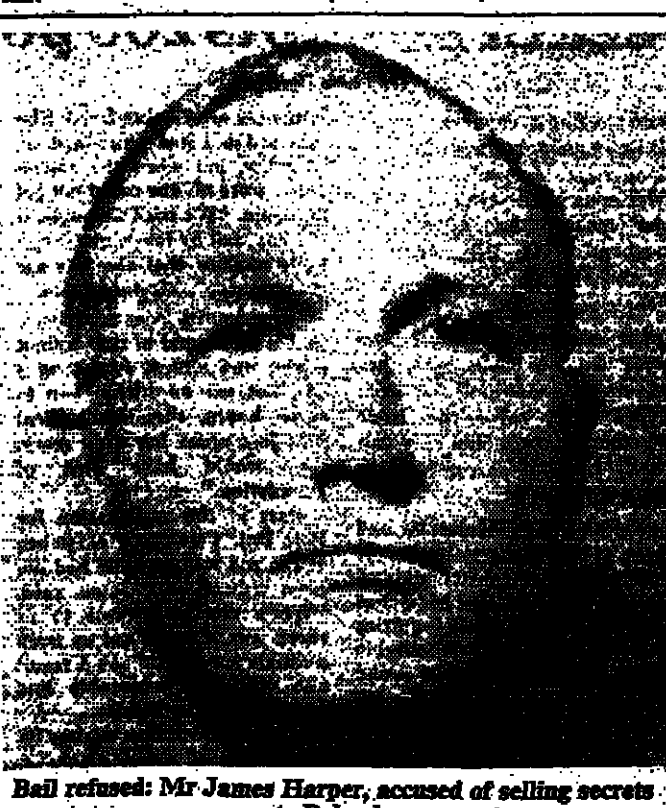
When it was pointed out, on a recent television current affairs programme, that his Labour opponent number was also a committed Christian Mr Bjelke-Petersen replied: "He's not my sort of Christian."

Mr Wright, on the other hand, takes a lower key, though no less committed, Christian stance. His style has been likened to that of President Carter on the campaign trail, which is appropriate for a man who would lead the state known to Sydney and Melbourne dwellers as the deep North.

The similarity between Mr Carter and Mr Wright is probably no accident; the Queensland Labour leader spent 12 weeks in the United States in 1979.

He spent six days a week on the road spreading the gospel in the United States. Last year Mr Wright nearly gave up politics to take up full-time evangelical work in America. "I prayed a great deal and decided I could do more as a politician," he said at the time.

Soon after making that statement he was chosen as Labour Party leader. He is quite unashamed in saying that he believes his mission as a politician is the result of divine guidance. The signs are increasingly that the contest will be between Mr Bjelke-Petersen and Mr Wright, as the Liberal Party is torn by political infighting.



Bail refused: Mr James Harper, accused of selling secrets to Poland.

Man vs. Manual

Of course you can learn to use your new business computer from a manual.

You're not stupid after all.

Not too smart, either, if that's how you intend to discover the potential of computers for your company.

You didn't learn to drive from the Highway Code.

So why do it with a piece of equipment even more advanced than a car?

We believe that it's better to learn from a man than a manual. We're British Telecom Merlin. And we've been adapting high technology to the needs of the businessman all our life.

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One of the first problems that newcomers to the technology encounter is a wall of jargon.

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Which is why, if you ask about our range of word processors and business computers, we'll tell you all about them in a language you'll understand.

English.

And that's also the language we use on our training schemes.

There's a course for all our range of equipment and programs. They are sensibly planned. For instance,

there is a course for secretaries to learn how to operate our word processor.

We recommend they take a three day introduction course, then go away and become more familiar with the equipment before returning for another day to learn the full potential of the processor.

We even train the boss.

And for the businessman we have a series of one day and two day courses to introduce them to the equipment and to the software they wish to use.

Now you may think all this talk about training courses is a cover up for poor training manuals. It's not.

As a matter of fact we pride ourselves that our manuals are among the easiest to understand on the market.

Now we come to another aspect of our service. However attentive you were at the training session. However hard you try to look it up in the book, there are times when you may get stuck.

A mental block. Pressed the wrong key. You know how it is.

In that case all you have to do is ring the hotline number to your local Merlin office, and one of our experts will help you solve your problem.

The expert will have exactly the same equipment as you, loaded with exactly the same software. So he or she can duplicate exactly where you got stuck. And tell you how to put it right.

It's such a simple idea, we don't know why every other computer company doesn't offer it.

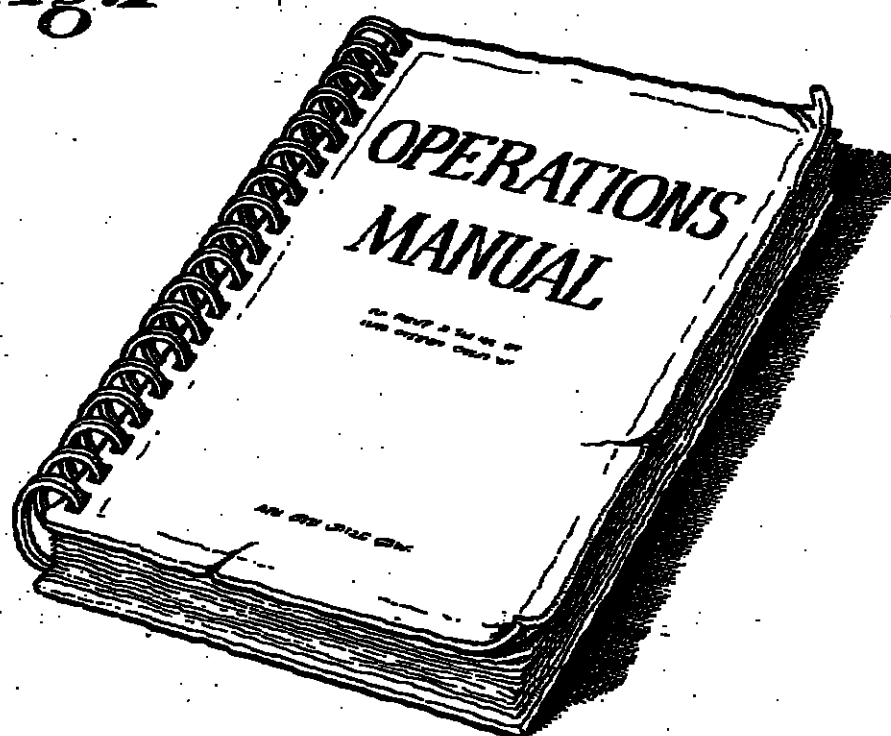
Make it simpler.

If you're interested in talking to one of our people about your computer needs, that's also very simple.

All you have to do is dial 100 and ask for Freefone Merlin.

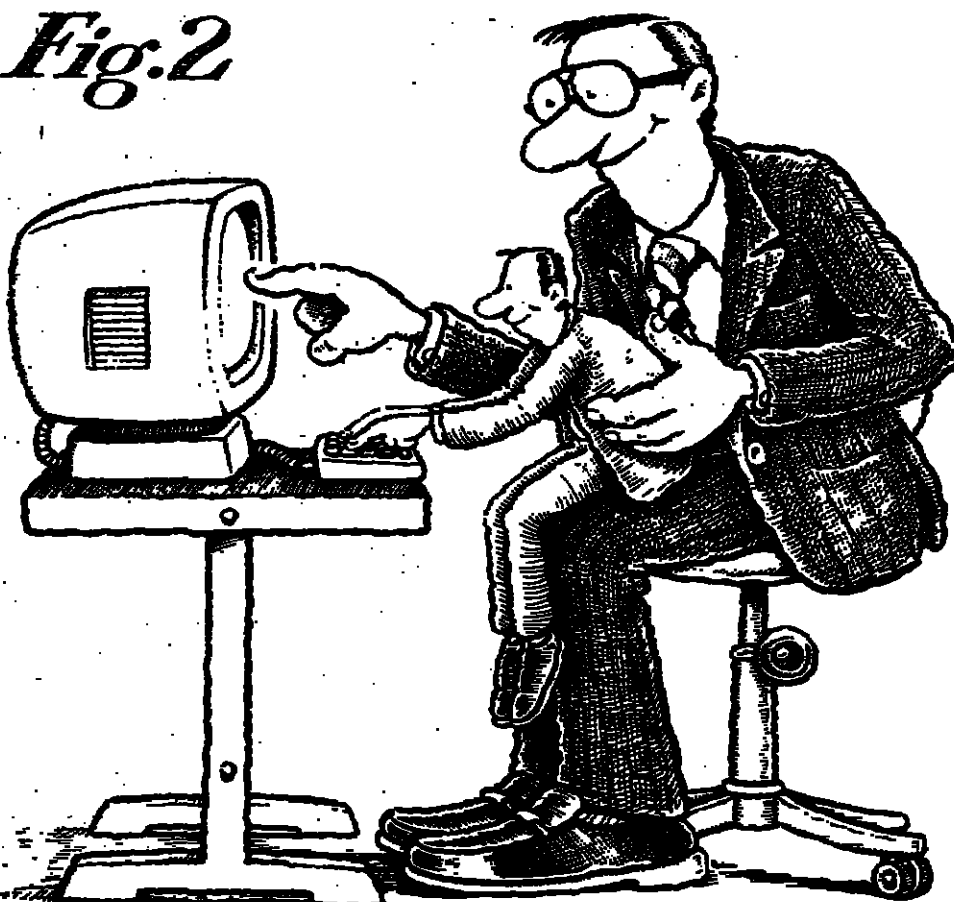
If you want it to be more complicated you can always fill in the coupon.

Fig.1



Preferred by most computer companies

Fig.2



Preferred by most computer users

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Address _____

Tel. No. _____ T 19/83



Merlin

British Telecom Business Systems

Someone had to make it simpler.

Sniper-plagued airport picked as site for Lebanon peace talks

After three weeks spent squabbling over the venue for their national reconciliation conference, the Lebanese Government and opposition leaders decided yesterday they would gather at Beirut international airport tomorrow for the first in a series of meetings that could change the country's constitutional structure.

Troops of the multinational force in Beirut, including United States Marines, will guard the delegates, who will include pro-Syrian politicians as well as government ministers. Syria and Saudi Arabia will also have representatives at the conference.

President Amin Gemayel's most recent suggestion was that the meetings should be held in the Health Ministry building on the old Beirut front line, but Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze militia leader, agreed in Damascus yesterday that he would be

prepared to travel to Beirut airport and meet the Lebanese head of state under the protection of the multinational force.

Since Mr Jumblatt has been demanding the withdrawal of the international force from Beirut, on the ground that American ships and French jets had both attacked his artillery positions in the Chouf mountains last month, his expression of confidence came as something of a surprise.

British and Italian troops may be invited to guard the delegates, since neither the Druze nor the Shia Muslim Amal movement, also to be represented at the talks, have found reason to complain about these contingents.

Western diplomats have been dismayed to discover in the past few days that senior members of the Lebanese Government, including to some extent President Gemayel himself, still

believe the talks are more a formality than the start of a process that may alter Lebanon's political shape.

Syria and its political allies in Lebanon are intent on gaining some radical reforms — the ending or setting aside of the May 17 agreement between Lebanon and Israel and changes in the command structure of the Lebanese Army.

While the United States wants the May 17 agreement to continue, it believes Mr Gemayel will have to make substantial concessions over the Army and that the Phalange Party's control of political power within the Government must be weakened. President Gemayel, however, spoke of the conference last week as "a camouflage", a distraction that delayed the withdrawal of foreign armies.

The conference will start none too soon. The fracturing ceasefire in Lebanon yesterday closed even the main road between Beirut and the airport as sniper fire from Shia Muslims in Bouj El Barajneh, presumably directed at Lebanese Army positions near the terminal, cracked across the boulevard running south of the capital.

NEW YORK: The mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon was extended for a further six months by the Security Council yesterday, while it again deferred a final decision on the fate of the troops surrounded by Israeli forces for more than a year (Zoriana Pysarskiy writes).

Shultz warns Iran on Gulf 'blackmail'

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has made clear that the United States cannot allow Iran to blackmail it by threatening to close the crucial Strait of Hormuz in the oil-exporting Gulf.

Iran has said it may restrict shipping in the Gulf if Iraq uses five Super-Endoer fighters with Exocet missiles due to be received from France.

Mr Shultz told reporters as he flew back to Washington after a

visit to Canada: "I do think we don't want to get ourselves into the position where the Iranians, or for that matter anybody else, says 'If you do X or fail to do Y, we'll do something about it'."

Shultz of Hormuz. "We don't want to put anybody in the position of successful use of that kind of tactic."

A White House spokesman yesterday emphasized US neutrality in the Gulf war.

Callaghan recalls Rasputin

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Russians found in their talks with Mr James Callaghan yesterday that behind his deceptively avuncular manner lay a steady and well-informed approach to East-West affairs.

Mr Callaghan strode temporarily into the East-West limelight with the same relish that he took on unilateralists at the Labour Party conference last month.

Since President Andropov also takes a dim view of unilateralists — he once described them as naive — Mr Callaghan should find some common ground with the Kremlin despite current tensions over the Korean airliner crisis and the Euro-missiles question.

Mr Callaghan was last in Moscow in 1975 as Foreign Secretary, with Sir Harold Wilson, who was then Prime Minister. He seemed to experience a sense of déjà vu.

"We went to the Bolshoi," he recalled. "I sat at the end of the row in the royal box. Harold sat in the middle. I leaned across and asked him what it felt like to be in the Tsar's seat. He thought for a moment and replied: 'What's it like to be in Rasputin's?'"

Mr Callaghan deplored the fact that no British Foreign Secretary had held substantive talks in Moscow for some time. "He said it was hardly surprising that the Russians placed Britain so low down in their 'hosting order' after West Germany and France."

Dialogue with Russia was all the more important at times of dangerous tension, but he added modestly that it was not up to him to do so. That was up to the Government.

After talks with Mr Boris Ponomarev, a candidate Politburo member, Mr Callaghan travels today to Volgograd, as Stalingrad is now called.

He recalled his first trip to Russia, in 1945, when he inspected war damage at Stalingrad, as a young naval lieutenant. "I think I looked rather impressive in my great-coat."

Stalingrad had given him a feeling of "shared warmth" for the Soviet people — "if that does not sound too naive" — but not for the Soviet bureaucracy.

Surprise EEC deal clears way for Iberian entry

From Ian Murray, Luxembourg

After eight years of near-deadlock negotiations for the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC can begin in earnest. This follows the unexpected agreement in Luxembourg early yesterday on ways of marketing agricultural products from the Mediterranean area.

Agreement was an essential precondition for any meaningful discussions with the two applicant countries. Despite two years of detailed discussion in agriculture councils little or no progress was made until yesterday. This aim is now to put together an EEC negotiating

position on agriculture by the end of the year.

It is probably not a complete coincidence that the breakthrough came after the "socialist summit" of European prime ministers in Athens over the weekend when both Dr Mario Soares of Portugal and Señor Felipe Gonzalez of Spain complained about slow progress in negotiations. The French, Italian and Greek prime ministers present were left in no doubt about the mounting irritation at the delay.

It was as a result of compromise and concessions made by these three countries that yesterday's agreement was possible, Señor Fernando

Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, afterwards thanked both Greece and Italy for their generosity in making agreement possible.

Essentially the new agreement covers the way in which fruit and vegetables, like citrus fruits, tomatoes, apricots and aubergines, can be supported and marketed. There was no detailed discussion of olive oil, although Mr Michael Jopling, the British Agriculture Minister, insisted on a sentence being put into the minutes to the effect that there must be no money for unwanted production.

Señor Moran welcomed the move but was under no illusions that it meant Spanish

entry was just around the corner. He refused to speculate on when entry would occur although he insisted that "membership of Europe is a priority objective in our policies. There was no question of Spain withdrawing its application to join."

There was no discussion of the Gibraltar problem during the meeting between the Spanish Foreign Minister and the Council.

● Cash crisis: The 10 EEC agriculture ministers were "toured" on the way the Community had run short of money this year, and several of them were "irritated" by what they

heard, according to Mr Jopling.

The lecture was delivered by Mr Paul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, who last week shocked the Community by announcing he had been forced to freeze payment of agricultural advances totalling around £240m, because there would not be enough money in this year's EEC budget to meet all the bills.

"As recently as September we were looking forward to economies resulting from lower-than-usual harvests and world prices," he told the ministers. "But... those hoped-for economies have not yet materialized."

500 rally to Walesa's priest

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Father Henryk Jankowski, the outspoken priest of Mr Lech Walesa and the Gdansk shipyard workers, is being investigated under political charges that could bring him a total jail sentence of up to 21 years.

Some 500 angry parishioners, described by the Government as a group of old-fashioned ladies, gathered outside the Gdansk prosecutor's office chanting their support for Mr Jankowski, who was accompanied by Mr Walesa and his lawyer Mr Jacek Taylor, a prominent defender of dissidents.

The authorities said the priest had been investigated under Article 194 (abuse of religious freedom), Article 270 (maliciously spreading lies about the Polish People's Republic and its representatives) and Article 271 (dissemination of false information). These sections of the penal code are regarded as concerning political offences.

Mr Jankowski said that he would continue to speak out for "truth, justice and human rights" and that he had simply been fulfilling his pastoral duties.

Mr Jankowski, a tall swarthy figure who has celebrated Mass for striking workers, is close to the Walesa family and



Old hands: President Li Xiangnan (second left) acknowledging the applause of Mr Deng Xiaoping (far left) and other Chinese leaders after delivering the opening address to the tenth National Trade Union Congress in Peking yesterday.

Danish Premier sets deadline for cuts package

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Mr Poul Schlüter, Denmark's Conservative Prime Minister, has set a deadline of Sunday midnight for final agreement with opposition parties on a austerity package of 10,000 kroner (\$707m) spending cuts largely affecting the public.

If Mr Schlüter's four-party minority coalition fails to gain support for its continuing policies of economic rigour, he will call an early election, a likely date being November 15, parliamentary sources told *The Times*.

Western rift over who cut the imam's throat

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

One of the problems of reporting what goes on inside Afghanistan was neatly illustrated yesterday at the regular briefings given by Western diplomats to sympathetic correspondents.

It probably is not too great a breach of security to disclose that each Tuesday two Western embassies invite British and American correspondents in Delhi to hear the latest successes of the *Majahidin* guerrillas, or the latest atrocities committed by the Soviet occupation force or Afghan troops loyal to the Soviet-backed regime.

It is plainly in the interests of the Western governments to keep such matters before the

public eye, but the danger is that they have to rely on third-hand or at best second-hand information, or they are fed stories by parties keen to play up the *Majahidin* successes.

Yesterday one embassy — known among local correspondents for vivid accounts of bloodshed and government forces captured — illustrated the growing number of political assassinations in Kabul with a reference to the Imam of Qala Mian Mosque, known locally as Mallah Khorang, or the great Mallah. He was found with his throat cut in his own mosque.

The diplomat said that his throat was cut from ear to ear — "slaughtered like a sacrificial lamb".

Papandreou to end wage freeze

From Marie Modiano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister, celebrated two years in power last night with a gigantic anniversary rally in central Athens, which his opponents branded a Roman triumph and which the Government called a fact-finding report to the people.

Addressing the cheering crowd, which the ruling Socialists had promised would be the largest ever seen in the Greek capital, Mr Papandreou promised to end the wage freeze in 1984 and take decisive action against unemployment. "We stand firm," he said. "The underpinnings shall not pass."

Pledging his government to support neither West nor East, "but only peace", he said: "Greece is today the pioneer in the struggle of European peoples for détente. We fight against the hawks in every corner of the world."

Mr Papandreou was speaking in Constitution Square, which was flooded by 600 powerful projectors fitted on tall towers of scaffolding.

Eleven television crews recorded the event for the state media, but there was no live transmission, probably to stop people watching the "fiesta" in comfort at home.

The rental of the projectors for six months and their installation over the past two weeks at a total cost of £145,000 angered the opposition and caused acrimony in Parliament.

Enthusiasm waning on sixth day

From Michael Mayne, Bonn

Weighted down with clanking chains, a symbolic victim of militarism shuffled up and down in front of the office of a Bonn army dealer. Revolutionary "fighters in El Salvador" were shot with plastic guns by Western-supplied government troops, while on the banner of a poster-covered car-crawled the stuffed and static "victim" of the arms company.

The tabloid, performed by a few dozen youthful demonstrators, was recorded by the cameras of the world's press as police with guard dogs looked on wryly from behind the barricades in front of the office block.

Anti-militarism and international solidarity, the theme of yesterday's demonstrations, took other forms in other places.

In Hamburg protesters blocked the office of an importer of coffee from El Salvador. In Munich a tour was organized around military and anti-militarist landmarks. In city squares around the country little groups smashed papier-mâché armaments, or beat symbolic swords into ploughshares.

Enthusiasm under rally grey skies was also symbolic of the sixth anniversary day of independence, protest against the deployment of Nato missiles, popular enthusiasm is clearly waning. Public and government supporters are forecasting that the "hot autumn" will turn out to be barely lukewarm.

On the political front, however, opponents of the Nato decision are keeping up the pressure.

Herl Wily Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, accepted the invitation to speak at the final rally in Bonn on Saturday, saying his party had no intention of swallowing up or eclipsing the peace movement, but it was "time for a no" to deployment.

Anti-American mood, page 12

Icebreakers mass to punch way to ships

Moscow — In a desperate effort to save ships still trapped in the frozen Sea of Chukots, all available ice breakers are being massed to smash their way through the ice "like a fist" (Richard Owen writes).

The nuclear-powered ice breaker *Zenit* has arrived to join its sister ship *Leonid Brezhnev* and other ice breakers in the area.

Helicopters and other aircraft are looking for weak spots in the ice to prepare the way for the planned mass assault. The temperature has dropped to -20°C.

Editor held in Pakistan

Islamabad — Mr Rafi Butt, chief editor of a local Urdu language daily, *Haider*, was arrested by police at his home and detained for three months under martial law regulations, newspaper sources said.

The paper had ignored advice on the news it could publish.

Blast escape

Charleston (Reuters) — No bodies were found by rescue workers searching the debris of a grocery store south of the West Virginia capital demolished by a gas explosion on Monday. Sixteen people were injured and it was initially feared that the owners of five parked cars had died. They were traced, however.

Yangtze upset

Portland (Reuters) — A United States rafting team has postponed until next year an attempt to float 1,700 miles down part of China's Yangtze River because of diplomatic delays. Other countries complained to Peking about not being invited to make similar expeditions.

Skull find

Nairobi — A human skull, between 150,000 and 300,000 years old, found on the western shore of Lake Turkana, is remarkably complete and well preserved, according to Mr Richard Leakey, director of the National Museums of Kenya.

Duke joins king

Amman (Reuters) — The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the World Wildlife Fund, has arrived on a private visit to Jordan. He was accompanying King Hussein to the Azrak wildlife reserve where 31 Arabian oryx have been saved from extinction.

Canberra choice

Mr Alfred Parsons, a career diplomat has been appointed Australian High Commissioner in London to succeed Sir Victor Garland before the end of the year. Mr Parsons, aged 58, is a deputy secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra.

Killer outbreak

Lagos (Reuters) — More than 90 people have died in two weeks in an outbreak of gastroenteritis in the Kaura Namoda area of Sokoto, north-west Nigeria. Mass immunization is taking place.

Ex-Premier ill

Wellington — Sir Keith Holyoake, a former Governor General and Prime Minister of New Zealand, has been admitted to hospital suffering from high blood pressure. He is 79.

Nightcap

Paris (AFP) — Regine Le Guillon, mother of seven grown-up sons, was detained awaiting trial on a charge of putting sleeping pills in her husband's soup every night so that he would not want sexual relations with her.

Tension at Comecon talks

Berlin (Reuters) — Government heads of the Eastern trade group Comecon began a three-day session in East Berlin yesterday to discuss food and energy supplies, chaired by Herr Willi Stoph, the East German Prime Minister. Mr Milan Krajcir, the Comecon spokesman, told journalists on Monday that the agenda included increasing cooperation in energy and raw materials savings and "better provision of the population with foodstuffs".

East European sources said that strains were likely over the price charged for Soviet oil and raw materials and the prices Moscow's allies were receiving for food and finished products.

Document dear to Gandhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

"I always start off by not expecting anything. That always happens, I think," Mrs Gandhi said to me at the weekend, talking about the forthcoming meeting of Commonwealth heads of government, which will be held in Delhi next month.

"These meetings are not meant to achieve any kind of dramatic result. They are get-togethers in a friendly, informal atmosphere, where we can talk about things," she said.

"At such meetings we discuss matters which are of special concern to us. There are many matters which do concern the Commonwealth as a whole to discuss them and to arrive at a consensus is a worthwhile achievement."

The principal matter likely to be discussed at the November meeting, and one that is dear to the Indian Prime Minister's heart, as chairman of the non-aligned movement, is a docu-

ment proposing steps towards a new Bretton Woods agreement. The Commonwealth prime ministers will have before them a document forwarded by the meeting of finance ministers held last month in Trinidad. Despite reservations expressed by the British, Canadian and, to a lesser extent, the Australian representatives, the document sees the need for an international monetary conference to provide a new order for world financial and economic dealings.

The document was drawn up by a number of economists at the suggestions of Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister. Despite the differences of initial response to the paper at Trinidad, the finance ministers agreed to "commend its thrust to Delhi", according to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Shridath Ramphal.

According to Mr Ramphal:

"It sees an international conference at the end of the road, but sees a necessary period of very careful preparation for it, and suggests a process by which that preparation might take place."

The notion of a world monetary conference has been very much on the minds of the Third World nations recently. The non-aligned meeting in Delhi earlier this year made a similar call for a meeting, and Mrs Gandhi, as chairman of the movement, urged its consideration at both United and at the Williamsburg summit. The developed world powers, however, have so far resisted the call.

"One of the situations that is threatening peace, apart from the arms race, is the widening gap between the rich nations and the poor nations," Mrs Gandhi said. "We very much hope that it will be one of the items on the agenda here."

Opposition will boycott Uganda by-elections

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

By-elections are to be held for eight vacant parliamentary seats in Uganda on November 16 — and the ruling Uganda People's Congress is likely to take them all because the opposition Democratic Party says that it will boycott the elections.

Mr Paulo Semogerere, the Democratic leader, says that, there is not sufficient security to hold the elections and that more than 20 members of his party have been killed in only two constituencies in the past few weeks.

In the 1980 election Uganda Congress won 73 seats and the Democrats 51 but nine former democrat MPs have since crossed to the Congress party

The unanswered questions behind banker's death

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Spy allegations and accounts of KGB pressure by Mr Dennis Skinner shortly before his death last June were not taken seriously by the foreign community in Moscow and are still regarded sceptically by diplomats, according to recent soundings.

Colleagues of Mr Skinner, the Midland Bank representative in Moscow, claim that although the British Embassy heard him out and took some measures to protect him, it believed he was in a distraught state and should leave the country as soon as possible.

Embassy officials yesterday declined to comment on reports that Mr Skinner, who died in a mysterious fall from his twelfth-floor flat, had told them that his Russian wife — who lives in

Britain — was a KGB agent and that her "control" had used threats against the Skinner family. The Skinners' son lives in Harrow with his mother.

It has been confirmed, however, that Mr Skinner did tell British Embassy officials that he believed there was a Soviet spy in the embassy itself. Officials have refused to say whether he named a suspect, but no British diplomats in Moscow have since left the service.

Embassy officials have refused to comment on the case on the ground that the matter is only a judicial one. An inquest on Mr Skinner, held in camera in the summer and adjourned, will soon resume in open session. Observers feel it may be

brought forward in an effort to end speculation about Mr Skinner's death.

Foreigners here are nonetheless asking a number of questions about the Skinner case, some of which suggest his fears of KGB pressure might have been genuine:

● Although Mr Skinner spent the night of Wednesday, June 15, in the flat of an embassy official, why was he not given similar protection until his planned departure on Monday, June 20?

● If there are no security implications, why did Midland Bank representatives from London spend more than 10 hours closeted with Sir Iain Sutherland, the Ambassador, in

a "safe" room at the embassy after Mr Skinner's death?

● Where did he go between being dropped at the Intourist hotel by British officials on Thursday, June 16, and appearing at a trade reception the same evening?

● What fears did he express in last-minute telephone calls from Moscow to his wife in Harrow and Midland Bank officials in London?

● LONDON: The Foreign Office said last night that an autopsy report on Mr Skinner had been received from Moscow and would be passed to the coroner before the open inquest (Henry Satchell writes).

(But) It is planned to comment on the allegations concerning Mr Skinner.

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2.1 Subject to a minimum purchase of £500 (see paragraph 3) a purchase may be made in multiples of £50. The date of purchase will for all purposes be the date payment is received, with a completed application form, at the National Savings Deposit Bond Office, a Post Office transacting National Savings Bank business or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.

2.2 A certificate will be issued in respect of each purchase. This certificate will show the value of the bond and its date of purchase. This certificate will be replaced on each anniversary of the date of purchase, and on part repayment in accordance with paragraph 5.2 by a new certificate showing the updated value of the bond, including capitalised interest.

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM HOLDING LIMITS

3.1 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £500 in any one bond or more than £50,000 in one or more bonds. The maximum holding limit will not prevent the capitalisation of interest under paragraph 4.3 but capitalised interest will count towards this limit if the holder wishes to purchase another bond. Bonds inherited from a deceased holder and interest on such bonds will not count towards the maximum limit. Bonds held by a person as trustee will not count towards the maximum which he may hold as trustee of a separate fund or which he or the beneficiary may hold in a personal capacity.

3.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits from time to time, upon giving notice, but such a variation will not prejudice any right enjoyed by a bond holder immediately before the variation in respect of a bond then held by him.

INTEREST

4.1 Interest will be calculated on a day to day basis from the date of purchase up to the date of repayment. Subject to paragraph 4.2 interest on a bond will be payable at a rate determined by the Treasury, which may be varied upon giving six weeks notice.

4.2 The rate of interest on a bond or part of a bond repaid before the first anniversary of the date of purchase will be half the rate determined by the Treasury in accordance with paragraph 4.1, unless repayment is made on the death of the sole bond holder.

4.3 Interest on a bond will be capitalised on each anniversary of the date of purchase without deduction of income tax, but interest is subject to income

tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue in respect of the year in which it is capitalised.

REPAYMENT

5.1 A holder must give three calendar months notice of any application for repayment before redemption but no prior notice is required if application is made on the death of the sole bond holder. Any application for repayment of a bond must be made in writing to the National Savings Deposit Bond Office and be accompanied by the current investment certificate. The period of notice will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the National Savings Deposit Bond Office.

5.2 Application may be made in accordance with paragraph 5.1 for repayment of part of a bond, including capitalised interest, but the amount to be repaid must not be less than £50, or such other figure as the Treasury may determine from time to time upon giving notice. The balance of the bond remaining after repayment, excluding interest which has not been capitalised, must be not less than the minimum holding limit which was in force at the date of application. Where part of a bond has been repaid a new certificate will be issued and the remaining balance will be treated as having the same date of purchase as the original bond.

5.3 Payments will be made by crossed warrant sent by post. For the purpose of determining the amount payable in respect of a bond the date of repayment will be treated as the date on the warrant.

5.4 No payment will be made in respect of a bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, either solely or jointly with any other person, except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

TRANSFERS

6 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. The Director of Savings will, for example, normally give consent in the case of devolution of bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.

NOTICE

7 The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 3.2, 4.1, 5.2 and 8 in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in any manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazettes, it will as soon as reasonably possible thereafter be recorded in them.

GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS

8 Each bond may be held for a guaranteed initial period of 10 years from the purchase date. Thereafter, interest will continue to be payable in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 and 4.3 until the redemption of the bond. The bond may be redeemed either at the end of the guaranteed initial period or on any date thereafter, in either case upon the giving of six months notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the holder before redemption, at his last recorded address, informing him of the date of redemption.

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NAME AND ADDRESS TO WHICH DEPOSIT BOND SHOULD BE SENT

(Complete only if different from first address above)

Name

Address

Postcode



Signature(s) Date

Note: If the Bond is to be held jointly all the parties must sign above. Persons signing for children under 7 should also state relationship here.

Chancery Division

Law Report October 19 1983

Queen's Bench Division

Law Society not liable for costs

In re a Solicitor

Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment delivered October 11]

The Law Society would not be liable for any costs claimed against it by an applicant who succeeded in his application to the High Court to have his solicitor struck off the roll of Solicitors of the Supreme Court since the society was not a party to the proceedings but appeared under its statutory right by counsel in the role of *amicus curiae* to ensure that the court had the assistance of the body charged with the primary duty of ensuring the proper standards of conduct by solicitors.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division during the hearing of an application by Mr Leslie Arthur Parsons, under sections 50 and 51 of the Solicitors Act 1974 to have the name of Mr Charles Richard Davies struck off the roll and for costs to be paid by Mr Davies or the Law Society.

Mr Hugh Laddie and Mr David Kitchin for Mr Parsons; Mr Michael Turner, QC and Mr John Smith for Mr Davies; Mr Michael Wright, QC and Mr J. P. Whitaker for the Law Society.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that it was conceded by Mr Turner that in the light of findings at previous hearings by Master Ewkeley and Mr Justice McCowan that Mr Davies' conduct amounted to gross misconduct of such a kind that the only course the court could take would be to order Mr Davies to be struck off the roll.

But Mr Turner submitted that Mr Davies should not be ordered to pay all the costs of the application.

Mr Parsons sought an order for costs against Mr Davies or the Law Society. Mr Wright submitted that the court had no jurisdiction to make such an order.

His Lordship considered it appropriate to express his conclusion at the present stage since the Law Society had to decide what part it should play in the further hearing of the application.

Although an application to strike off the solicitor's name was normally made to the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal under section 46 of the Solicitors Act 1974, the jurisdiction of the courts to hear complaints of misconduct was recently preserved by section 50(2) of the 1974 Act.

The procedure to be followed on an application to the High Court was presented by sections 51 to 53 of the 1974 Act. Section 51 of the 1974 Act, section 51 of the 1981 Act and section 50 of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act 1925 which in turn reproduced section 5 of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1873.

It was well settled that notwithstanding the apparent width of the rule the court had no jurisdiction to order that costs be paid by a stranger to the proceedings, the rule meaning that the court could order the costs to be paid only by a party to the proceedings: see *Forbes-Smith v Forbes-Smith* [1901] P 228, per Lord Justice Collins at p271.

It was submitted by Mr Wright that the Law Society was not a party within that principle. Mr Laddie relied on the definition of a party in section 151 of the 1981 Act. That definition differed and might be narrower than the definition in section 225 of the 1925 Act.

Mr Laddie submitted that the society fell within the definition in section 151 of the 1981 Act on the ground that under subsection (2) of section 51 of the Solicitors Act 1974 the society had to be given notice of an intention to make an application under that section and in the alternative on the ground that if the society in fact appeared on the application under section 51 it necessarily intervened in the proceedings.

On the first of those grounds section 51 (a) (2) did not in fact require that notice of an application

be given to the society. It required that an applicant "give notice to the Law Society of his intention to make the application together with copies of all affidavits intended to be used in support of the application".

The distinction was a fine one but for reasons which would appear later the drafter of the subsection must be taken to have chosen that formulation deliberately to ensure that the society did not automatically become a party to an application under section 51(1) simply upon the ground that notice of intention had to be given to it.

As Mr Wright had expressed it, the society was given notice of the applicant's intention to make an application in order that it may, if it thought proper in the exercise of its statutory duties, avail itself of its statutory right to appear at the hearing of the application.

In the present case the originating notice of motion was served on the society and in it an order for costs was sought against the society. However Mr Laddie had conceded rightly that the society could not be made liable for costs as a party merely by being served with the proceedings. It was necessary to show that a person against whom an order for costs was sought to be brought properly in the exercise of the court or some other statutory provision.

Mr Laddie, alternatively, had submitted that the society became a party to the application when counsel appeared on its instructions at the hearing.

That submission, if well-founded, could have the paradoxical result that the society would expose itself to a potential liability for costs if it instructed counsel to attend the hearing of an application to give assistance to the court, but not otherwise.

Under subsection (3) the society could apply to the court to make an order nisi or an order striking out the name of the solicitors or any other order the court might think fit.

Mr Laddie had submitted that if the society actively pursued an application and sought an order, after the applicant had ceased to press for such an order, and if the society failed it would be unfair if the court could not make an order against the society for the costs thrown away.

However, the question whether if the society were to apply for an order pursuant to subsection (3) the court would have jurisdiction to order it to pay the applicant's or the solicitor's costs on the ground that by so applying it had become a party by intervening in the proceedings was a question which did not arise and on which his Lordship expressed no opinion.

The conclusion that the society did not become a party to an application under section 51 against whom an order for costs could be made either as a person "who pursuant to or by virtue of rules of court or any other statutory provision has been served with notice of or in it" or as it was represented by counsel at the hearing but made no application under subsection (3) as a person who had intervened in the proceedings, was strongly reinforced by two other considerations.

First, if the society automatically became a party either on being given notice of the applicant's intention to apply or by virtue of appearing by counsel at the hearing, subsection (2) would be unnecessary and the court would have power to order the costs of the society to be paid by the other parties as well as ordering the society to pay the costs. Subsection (3) would be in large measure if not

wholly unnecessary, if the society was made a party to an application by subsection (2) alone, because as a party it would be entitled at least to appear by counsel.

Second, the clear purpose of requiring that notice of an intended application be given to the society and of giving the society the right to appear was to ensure that the court had the assistance of the society as the body charged with the primary duty of ensuring the maintenance of proper standards of conduct by solicitors. If questions arose, as to what was normally recognized within the profession as an acceptable standard of conduct.

On an application under section 51 there was no issue between the applicant and the Law Society. As Mr Wright expressed it, the society was present as an *amicus curiae* not on the invitation of the court but on the invitation of the legislature.

There was one other matter which should be mentioned: it was not suggested that whether the court had jurisdiction or not, the fact that the society had appeared by leading and junior counsel for the express purpose of giving assistance to the court as it was able, would by itself afford any ground for ordering the society to pay any part of the costs of the applicant.

What was said was that an earlier stage, even before the hearing before Mr Justice McCowan, complaints were made to the Law Society which their files showed at least a strong *prima facie* case of misconduct on the part of Mr Davies in relation to presentation of his bill of costs.

It was said that the society or its professional conduct committee ought to have preferred a complaint

against Mr Davies before the statutory tribunal. It was said that if that had been done the costs of an application to strike the name of Mr Davies off the rolls would have been, as it should have been, borne by the society.

It was said that the society wilfully or negligently had failed in its duty to give proper consideration to those complaints and that as a result of its failure to give proper consideration to them and to make the application to the statutory tribunal, which if it had given proper consideration to the complaint it would have been bound to have made, Mr Parsons had had to bear the expense of making the application himself. Those allegations made by Mr Laddie had not been the subject of any evidence by the society and had not been determined.

It was not open to the court on an application under section 51 to enter into the question as to whether the society failed in its duty to give proper consideration to Mr Parsons' complaints or whether if it had it would have been under a duty to institute proceedings to have Mr Davies' name struck off the rolls.

Those were issues which not only had not been heard but which could not in fairness to the society be canvassed in this application.

It had to follow that even if the society had jurisdiction to order the society to pay any part Mr Parsons' costs no ground had been advanced which would justify the exercise of that jurisdiction on the facts of this case.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith & Co; W Davies & Jenkins, Llanelli; Hempsons.

Council misses sex shop control time limit

Regina v Chester City Council, Ex parte Quietlynn Ltd

Regina v Havant Borough Council, Ex parte Quietlynn Ltd

Regina v Preston Borough Council, Ex parte Quietlynn Ltd

Regina v Swansea City Council, Ex parte Quietlynn Ltd

Regina v Trafford Borough Council, Ex parte Quietlynn Ltd

Regina v Watford Borough Council, Ex parte Quietlynn Ltd

Regina v Walsley City Council, Ex parte Quietlynn Ltd

Before Mr Justice Woolf

[Judgment delivered October 14]

A local authority resolution made under section 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, purporting to bring into effect the sex establishment control provisions contained in Schedule 3 to the Act, was ineffective because notice of the resolution was published outside the time limit provided by section 2.

Mr Justice Woolf, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held, allowing an application by Quietlynn Ltd for, *inter alia*, an order to quash Swansea City Council's refusal, on February 24, 1983, to grant the applicants a licence under Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act to use premises at 3 Dwyer Street, Swansea, as a sex establishment; and for a declaration that the provisions contained in Schedule 3 had not been brought into force within the area of the city of Swansea.

His Lordship refused the applicants relief in five other applications for judicial review against the decisions of Chester City Council and the borough councils of Preston, Trafford, Watford and

Havant, refusing the applicants licences to use premises as sex establishments in their respective areas.

Mr Kenneth Zucker, QC and Mr Mark Warwick for the applicants; Mr John Huggill, QC and Mr Charles Cross for the councils.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that section 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 gave local authorities power to apply the sex establishment control provisions contained in Schedule 3 to the Act by passing a resolution and publishing notice of that resolution in two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper, the first publication being not later than 28 days before the day specified in the resolution for the coming into force of Schedule 3 in the area.

It was conceded that notice had been given outside the time limit in the present case.

When the relevant provisions of the Act were applied to a local authority's area, it became unlawful to operate a sex establishment (which included a sex shop and sex cinema) without a licence. Furthermore, it became an offence, punishable on summary conviction with a maximum fine of £10,000, knowingly to use or cause or permit the use of premises as a sex establishment in the area without a licence.

The requirement in section 2 to give notice of the making of a resolution was designed to give users of premises the opportunity of avoiding the commission of a criminal offence, and an opportunity of applying to a local authority for a licence before Schedule 3 came into force and to

continue to use the premises until determination of their application (paragraph 28 of Schedule 3 to the Act).

There had to be some circumstances when it would be right for the court to quash a resolution. If, for example, there had been no publication of a notice at all, there could be no doubt that at least a person who had been prejudiced thereby would be entitled to have the resolution quashed.

It was highly unsatisfactory that an application to the High Court should be necessary before it could be decided whether or not a resolution was effective and whether a criminal offence was being committed.

His Lordship had therefore come to the conclusion that non-compliance with the requirement as to publication in section 2 rendered the resolution ineffective, even though no prejudice had been suffered by the applicants in the present case.

Trifling and typographical errors would not normally invalidate a resolution.

The basis of the applicant's case against Chester City Council was that the committee responsible for determining whether a licence should be granted, having delegated to a subcommittee of five members the task of conducting a hearing under paragraph 10(19) of Schedule 3, decided to refuse the applicants a licence without any consideration of the matters put before the subcommittee.

For the majority of quasi-judicial hearings, such a procedure would

not normally suffice. But in the present case, the statute provided that when an authority was minded to refuse a licence it should give the applicant a hearing, and providing that such a hearing could take place before a subcommittee (paragraph 10(19)).

Furthermore, the decision reached, namely that the licence be refused, having regard to the character of the locality and the use to which premises in the vicinity were put, was substantially one of policy based on the characteristics of the locality which could be expected to be known to the committee.

While therefore in determining an application for a licence it would normally be preferable for a committee to be provided with a summary of the applicant's representations as well as the recommendation of the subcommittee, there was no suggestion of any actual unfairness to the applicants, and as the members of the subcommittee who were present at the hearing were not present at the hearing, no procedural irregularity requiring the intervention of the court had been shown.

His Lordship dismissed four other applications for judicial review based on technical complaints.

Solicitors: Kaye, Tesler & Co; Michael Murray, Chester, Mr P. T. Adams, Havant; Mr A. Owens, Preston; Mr John R. Hope, Swansea; Mr R. Armstrong, Watford; Mr M. A. Raybould, Watford.

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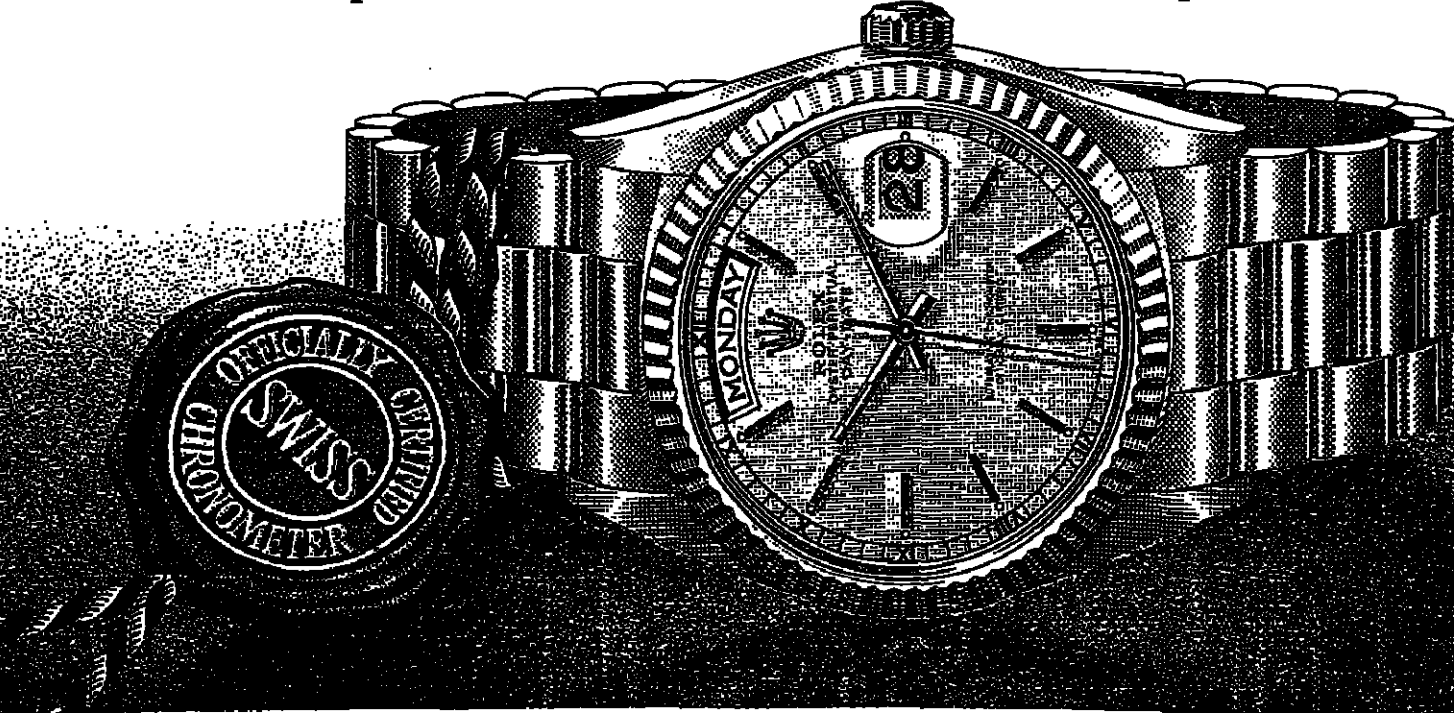
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No reason to disqualify

Regina v Riley (Terence)

Using a motor vehicle in furtherance of an agreement to steal (that had already been made) did not facilitate the commission of the offence of conspiracy and accordingly did not fall within the terms of section 44(2) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973. There was no jurisdiction therefore to impose an order of disqualification on a plea of guilty to a sole charge of conspiracy.

Mr Justice Stocker, sitting with Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Beldam in the Court of Appeal on October 10, gave judgment allowing an appeal by Terence Riley against an order of disqualification for two years imposed, *inter alia*, at Snaresbrook

Crown Court (Judge V. R. D. Hill-Smith) on a plea of guilty to conspiracy to steal.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the prosecution evidence was that police officers saw the appellant driving around in a van with his brother, stopping a number of times, getting out to inspect unattended vehicles and driving off.

In *R v Cuthbertson* ([1981] AC 470) the House of Lords had considered the question of forfeiture in a case concerning a conspiracy to contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Applying the reasoning in *Cuthbertson* by analogy, the use of the motor vehicle did not facilitate the commission of the offence of conspiracy, and the order of disqualification should be quashed.

BATTERSEA POWER STATION DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

The CEGB invites development teams interested in purchasing the site to enter a competition for the re-use and rehabilitation of Battersea power station.

Competition documents will be available from 19 October 1983 and intending competitors must apply for registration by 9 January 1984.

Development teams wishing to enter should send a cheque for £25 or international money order for £25 Sterling made payable to "Central Electricity Generating Board."

Applications and cheques should be sent to:
"Battersea Power Station Development Competition,"
Central Electricity Generating Board,
Bankside House, Summer Street,
London SE1 9JU

Secretariat to the competition:
Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd.



SPECTRUM

Tibet's second city turned out in force three weeks ago to watch the trial and executions of five men and a young woman. Afterwards, wall posters describing their crimes were pasted up, each marked with a large red tick: job completed. But were the dead men merely criminals, as the posters alleged, or political dissidents, as the Dalai Lama's office claimed? From Tibet, David Hewson reports

Buddha and bullets

On September 27, a small group of Westerners stumbled out of the heavy sleep which the Tibetan altitude induces and walked rather drowsily into the makings of an international incident.

It was a typical September morning at 12,000 ft on the roof of the world. The sun bore down on Xigatse, Tibet's second city, with the piercing brightness only possible in an atmosphere starved of oxygen and lacking the pollution of modern civilization. After a rather dubious breakfast in the barracks-style accommodation which houses foreigners who have made the long journey to the region through China, the group, of which I was a member, met its local guide and ventured into town.

We were puzzled by what we saw. Tashilumpo monastery, traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, second only to the Dalai in the old Tibetan theocracy, was nearly deserted. A few craftsmen sat around making gold Buddhas, and a handful of elderly monks shuffled about in their maroon robes, replenishing the yak butter lamps which guttered in the temples. Empty monasteries are no curiosity in Tibet. During the Cultural Revolution there was an attempt to destroy piece by piece the old Buddhist order. But Tashilumpo has been favoured by the recent liberalization of Chinese attitudes towards religious freedom. Some 600 of the 3,700 monks who once lived there had been allowed to return, giving it half of the total monastic population of Tibet. Where were they?

"There is a prefecture meeting," said the Tibetan guide, who came from a pro-Chinese family. "It is nothing

important. The bank is closed, and the shops too. And the free market. Would you like to see the Brahmaputra river instead?"

On the way, we saw around 30,000 people, some three quarters of the town's population, bustling past the monastery gates in an excited mood, like a Bank Holiday crowd on the way to the fair. Children gazed expectantly from their fathers' shoulders, hawkers plied their wares through the heaving throng which was headed in the direction opposite to ours.

"It is just a sort of local authority meeting," said the Chinese guide who had accompanied us from Peking. "Would you like a ride on a yak-skin boat?" A few hours later two trucks drove past us. In the back of each stood a party of white-jacketed Chinese policemen looking rather like startled waiters from a lesser restaurant. They held rifles with fixed bayonets over an assorted company of young men and women seated miserably on the truck floor. For all the last-minute evasion of our hosts, they had overlooked one thing. The picturesque rural community on the outskirts of Xigatse, where we had been taken to watch peasants thresh corn as if they were auditioning for Breughel, was on the main road to the town prison.

The day's events, which had attracted so much excited public attention, were nothing so mundane as a meeting of the local council. Xigatse had been transfixed by a public meeting of the people's court. And those pathetic figures who had been driven past us were the lucky ones: six of their fellow criminals had died that very morning, before the huge crowd,

killed by single bullets through the back of the neck from a policeman's revolver.

By mid-afternoon, wall posters, in Chinese and Tibetan, appeared on walls throughout the town. Red crosses through the names of the six condemned, five men and one woman, indicated the death sentence. A large red tick across the whole poster meant that it had been carried out. According to the posters the crimes ranged from murder - two of those who died, including a 28-year-old woman, were convicted of killing their lovers - to repeated theft and black market activities. Nowhere on the posters was the slightest indication that the condemned had committed political offences, though the Chinese have never in the past shied away from publicly announcing that they have executed counter-revolutionaries. Since widely-publicized executions are by no means uncommon in China at the moment during the present virulent campaign against theft, corruption and black marketeers, the Xigatse deaths seemed to fit into a well-established pattern.

A few days later, the office of the exiled Dalai Lama announced that six individuals had been executed in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa as dissidents, three days after the events in Xigatse. Under the heading "Buddhists Executed For Their Faith", the Dalai Lama's office claimed that 3,000 Tibetans had been arrested, of whom 1,000 now faced execution. Anti-Chinese riots in Nepal had ensued, and close aides of the Dalai Lama indicated that the visit to Lhasa which he had

been planning for 1985 had now been set back by several years.

But how believable is the Tibetan exiles' version of events? Last week in London, I told the Dalai Lama's acting representative Mr Phuntsog Wangyal of the executions in Xigatse and showed him photographs of the death sentences posted after the event.

Mr Wangyal said that as far as the Dalai Lama's office was aware only six executions had taken place in Tibet in recent weeks, and they were the ones in Lhasa. The office had no information about the identity of those allegedly shot, though it had earlier issued a press release saying that the Tibetan scholar Geshe Lobsang Wangchuk was "probably" among the victims.

Tibetan exiles naturally shy away from revealing the source of their intelligence information, but it is known that much of it comes from itinerant Tibetans and Nepalese who travel the road between Kathmandu in Nepal and Lhasa, halfway along which is Xigatse. The clear inference from the known facts now available from Tibet must be either that the Xigatse executions, which were witnessed by around 30,000 people, went unreported to the Tibetan exile organization, even though they occurred much closer to their Nepalese base than the alleged Lhasa incident, or that the events in Xigatse were distorted into the version eventually released to the Western press.

Neither explanation reflects well on the exiles or the Chinese. The gulf between the Dalai Lama and Peking now appears as large as it has ever been, and since the Buddhist leader fled the country in 1959, if that gulf is

predicated, to a large extent, on a misunderstanding, the fault must lie as much with the Chinese as with the exiles. Peking may have admitted to grave errors in its past treatment of Tibet, but it has simply replaced the old policy of ruthless domination with a haughty paternalism, backed by the presence of between 100,000 and 200,000 Chinese troops. Tibetans are being encouraged to enter the civil service - but only those who are good communists.

Religious freedom has, to some extent, been reinstated, though the old medieval theocracy is still officially damned. The Chinese have reluctantly come to believe that they cannot shake the primeval faith of the Tibetan people. Today, as they have done for hundreds of years, pilgrims travel thousands of miles to prostrate themselves before the splendour of Jokhang Temple in the centre of Lhasa, some of them from the most primitive areas, fervently praying that they might die in front of the temple in order to gain assured entrance into heaven.

The occupation costs the Chinese dearly, at least one million yuan (£330m) a year, excluding the price of the military. And in return for what? The Tibetans may accept the odd crumb of modern living thrown their way in the form of Western medicine and the occasional tractor, but at heart they remain as wedded as ever to their belief in the Dalai Lama. The conflict is not simply between the Chinese and the Tibetans. It is between the material and the spiritual. Perhaps that is why both sides find themselves so lost when they step into each other's territories.



moreover... Miles Kington Torch songs in the Crescent City

New Orleans

People talk about the danger of Venice sinking below the sea. That's nothing. New Orleans has already sunk below the sea. Most parts of the city are about eight feet below sea level - always have been - and if you have ever dug a sand castle in a few lying part of the beach, you will know this creates a problem with seepage and inflow. In the case of New Orleans it causes \$19m worth of problems every year, that being the money needed just to keep the city where it is, and dry.

It is all the fault of the French, of course, who built it in such soggy surroundings in the first place. So soggy that for a century or more it was thought lucky to build any houses more than four storeys high. Even now the tall blocks in downtown New Orleans have to have huge concrete piers reaching way down into the earth before they even start to think of building the lobby, while the French Quarter nest door preserves its old low European roofline with church spires the highest things to be seen.

It seems odd that in such a wet place the biggest hazard is fire. Just before the place was sold to America by Napoleon there had been two enormous fires, claiming a thousand houses in all, and it was the Spaniards, owners of the city just before Napoleon, who did most of the rebuilding in brick instead of wood, which means that very little of the French Quarter is actually French. When the Americans started moving into the new property there was a move to move into the French Quarter being all the city there was and the French, as is their wont, not much disposed to make room for them.

So the Americans, as is their wont, started building with tremendous energy next door and for a while there was a French city with an American Quarter. That quarter grew into the Garden District, a stunning area of such grand houses in such a dizzy variety of styles that even the guide book gives up trying to describe them and settles for terms like "Revived Greek Revival". One house in a direct copy of Tans from *Gone With the Wind* is about the smallest house in the district, which, if the truth be known, is far grander and more impressive than the French Quarter.

The last big fire in the latter was 10 years ago, when 34 people died in a bar on Chartres Street. There was another fire last week on Bourbon Street, when a tea-shirt shop burnt out, and you can still smell the scent of autumn bonfires in the area. The firemen were able to control it quickly, because they have been trained to memorize the area's ramshackle geography, but as the local councilman said, mysteriously: "We were almost forced to learn a hard lesson there."

Last week was, ironically, Fire Prevention Week; even more ironically, it produced more fires than usual and the city fire chief is now investigating the theory that having a Fire Prevention Week acts as a challenge to arsonists and pyromaniacs.

You might have thought it possible somehow to tip all that water just below the surface to create a city-wide system of fire sprinklers, especially now when all the streets in the French Quarter have been dug up for relaying. As one local magazine put it, the area has been ravished in preparation for next year's World's Fair, and though I think they meant "ravaged", they've captured the right mix of eagerness and dread with which the New Orleansians are greeting that event.

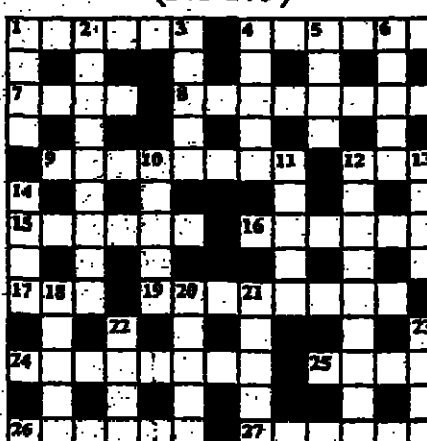
One of the houses I should hate most to see go is Gallier House, named after the architect who built it in 1857 with such modern gimmicks as hot and cold running water. Having finished his own house, he proceeded to build the French Opera House, which for decades was the centre of social life.

"It was still standing when I was a little girl," said the old lady who took us round. "I shall always remember it because my mother promised to take me to my first opera one Saturday, but I never got there."

Why not?

"It burnt down the Wednesday before, December 4, 1919."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 179)



- ACROSS**
- 1 Large African tree (6)
 - 4 Cattle skin (2,4)
 - 7 Take off (4)
 - 8 Transitory (8)
 - 9 Close and muggy (8)
 - 12 British peace corps (6,11)
 - 13 Challenge (6)
 - 16 Humily (6)
 - 17 Game of "it" (3)
 - 19 School session (4,4)
 - 24 Oblivious (8)
 - 25 Worthless people (4)
 - 26 Servicable (6)
 - 27 Sailor (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Portland (4)
 - 2 Ready to wear (3,3,5)
 - 3 Romanesque (5)
 - 4 Further (5)
 - 5 Heave (4)
 - 6 Board across (5)
 - 10 Dark period (5)
 - 11 Fermenting fungus (5)
 - 12 Handbook (4,5)
 - 13 Straight-backed antelope (4)
 - 14 Sword handle (4)
 - 15 Assumed name (5)
 - 20 Conjure up (5)
 - 21 Zoroastrian priest (5)
 - 22 Action word (4)
 - 23 Gulf saltwater (4)

SOLUTION TO No 178

ACROSS: 1 Kibosh 5 Team 8 Goyim 9 Lobster 11 Ecclesi 13 Onio 15 Solitaire 18 Brit 19 Sick 22 Deed 23 Jolup 24 Drag 25 Sun god

DOWN: 1 Idyl 2 On 3 Tube 4 Etern 7 Agle 10 Room 12 Gold 14 Wick 15 Snapper 16 Aled 17 Steps 20 Igloo 21 Bert 23 Jim

now come under our own discipline.

Edkins came straight across to the hospital area, where a concert was in progress, and made the statement to the audience. There was a tremendous burst of cheering. The national anthems of Britain, Holland and the United States were sung, and then "Abide with me".

One could hardly realize that after so long, the moment for which one had waited with such desperate but such doubtful hopes had come at last. It was over: we were free again, and would soon be in touch with the outside world, home. It was almost impossible to grasp - at such a moment surely one should feel some overwhelming emotion: one just felt rather numb, rather shaky and rather inclined to sob. *Sunt lacrimae rerum: et mentem mortalia tangunt* ("Human deeds have their tears, and mortality touches the heart," Virgil, *Aeneid* 1.462) - that nebulous expression of half-comprehended emotion seemed exactly to express one's feeling, as one tried to grasp what had happened.

AUGUST 25, 1945

Discipline in the camp has been good since the Nipponees ceased to be our masters... one must admit that the Japanese have behaved with great restraint.

Lee has been investigating the medical supplies held by the Japanese. They have handed over the balance of the Red Cross packing cases - any amount of atabrin, iron, vitamin, in fact everything we need. Why on earth could they not have let us have them at once?

SEPTEMBER 1, 1945

Sick men from up-country are coming down as fast as they can be brought; and the shocking condition in which many of them are arrives one's feelings of animosity against the Japanese, which had sunk quite low, seeing them so submissive and orderly and now harmless.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1945

Dakota transport planes have dropped good supplies of milk and food; drugs and clothes, blankets - everything we need. Representatives from the airborne troops that have been landed in Bangkok have come out to us here; a doctor too, from the outside world. Men are now being taken in to Bangkok by train mostly, to be flown out to Rangoon and the wide world again.

© Elizabeth Hardie 1983

Cheers, tears and Red Cross parcels



● In the disease-ridden camps alongside the River Kwai, 1945 opened to the dawn of Allied aircraft and the wall of Japanese air-raid sirens. The bombers were seeking to destroy the Burma-Siam railway which the prisoners had been forced to build for their captors. This concluding extract from the secret prison diary of Dr Robert Hardie, written on stolen scraps of paper over a period of three years and hidden in a hospital vacuum flask, describes the medical officer's view of the final months of the war, as the Allied advance drew nearer.

JANUARY 1, 1945

Nearly 2,000 men have now come over to this camp from Tamarkan. A great many of them have malaria - there has been a very serious shortage at Tamarkan of quinine, and no plasmoquine. Our position here, with this great influx of men with fever, is pretty desperate too. The Japanese say they are very short of quinine and are having difficulty in getting it. One has heard this story before, but forward to cover mere indifference - but of course it might be true.

FEBRUARY 14, 1945

Yesterday evening there was a heavy raid on the bridge. There was a good deal of cannon and machine-gun firing. We got fine views of the big bombers as they went in and circled round. The anti-aircraft fire did not seem to worry them. Two big American planes swept low over this camp, and we could see the people on board. We do not yet know what damage was done at the bridge, but at dawn today the Nips sent 150 men over from here to start repairs.

Colonel Sugawara is coming to this camp again "on inspection" in the next day or two. Last time he merely walked quickly through the camp. But in fear lest he should look into the hospital, Nobusawa today went through it himself and insisted on discharging all the men who, he thought, "looked too well". Two of his choices were men with almost complete paralysis of the legs - totally unable to walk. This was pointed out to him, but he said they must go out of hospital, as they "looked fit".

Abridged from The Burma-Siam Railway: The Secret Diary of Dr Robert Hardie, published on October 25 by Imperial War Museum Publications, price £9.95

The Japanese Thailand Number One Medical Officer was here a day or two ago, also on inspection. He went straight to the Japanese part of the camp, where he appears to have had a chat with Nobusawa. He then repaired to the Jap officers' quarters, and was helped out of the camp later in the evening, very drunk. He certainly came nowhere near the hospital area. The more responsible their position, apparently, the less trouble they take to find out what they are responsible for.

FEBRUARY 22, 1945

Workers who have been going to Tamarkan to do repairs and to ferry material across the river pending repairs, report that the steel bridge is completely kaput and has been abandoned, two spans being dropped in the water by the last attack. Repairs are being carried out on the wooden bridge, and it is said that it will be working again before long.

MARCH 13, 1945

An order has been issued that all knives and cut-throat razors have to be handed in to the Japanese. Furthermore, tomorrow all pens and ink are to be handed in, under threat of severe reprisals if any are found thereafter in the camp. So I think I shall buy this pen, in a sealed bottle - I may be able to recover it later. I shall have to use pencil henceforward - until they are all called in too.

APRIL 1, 1945

Aeroplane about at breakfast time. One came directly overhead as I was frying an egg and a piece of rice bread, and dropped a cloud of leaflets. They were carried away from the camp by the wind, but a copy came into the camp later. There were some anti-Nip cartoons; the letterpress was in Burmese - suitable for April 1 perhaps. We wonder whether the RAF think this is Burma? After lunch nine prisoners, wounded in an aerial attack up near the line near Wampo, arrived down by diesel truck. One died shortly after arrival. A couple needed amputations. One was a Queensland aborigine, always a most cheerful and willing worker his comrades say. He will do all right.

These men were on a working party on the railway line near the Wampo viaduct, which they say was badly smashed up about a week ago; but the Nip in charge would not allow them to take cover, although there was plenty of time for the plane circled around twice before attacking. They had to go on



The cemetery at Chungkai, sketched by Dr Hardie

MAY 30, 1945

All sorts of fantastic rumours, but in the absence of definite information from the Japanese we don't have any certain news. The up-river camps are very fertile sources of rumours - landings here, there and everywhere - which don't lose anything on their journey down here. Up-river camps on the railway are seeing large numbers of Japs, military and civil, some in very bad condition, coming down the railway out of Burma.

JUNE 28, 1945

In the weeks since my last entry, we have all left Chungkai camp and come down to Tamarkan.

On the 25th in the afternoon, bombers suddenly appeared in the skies, and the Tamarkan bridge area (now about 10 miles to the north of us) and the Kanbari area (slightly nearer, in the same direction) were heavily pounded. It is said that the wooden bridge was badly smashed, and the steel bridge further damaged.

AUGUST 11, 1945

There are rumours of all sorts - of terrific air raids in Japan, of peace feelers, of phenomenal advances. There are rumours of more Red Cross stuff for us at Bangkok. We have actually had 30 cases of American Red Cross drugs handed over to us by the Nips in the last few days.

WEDNESDAY PAGE

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

A star steps out of the shadows



said on the wireless). Things I wish hadn't happened: the button of my mackintosh getting into the wire mesh of a supermarket basket, so I couldn't get it out, or the basket on to the till or my goods out of the basket. At one point I thought I might have to go home with a basket hanging from my front.

Almost every day there is another revelation about our eating habits; every discovery agrees that we eat too much meat. Those of us who have known this for years prick up our ears and sniff the wind to see if the threat to humans of an early death or great famers can slow down the avalanche of slaughtered beasts, now

reckoned to be about 200,000 a minute. Those of us who have given up meat altogether are viewed with some suspicion; but watch us go, brains firing on all cylinders, clear-eyed, humorous, narrow-waisted and energetic Richard North's new book, *The Animals Report*, should be read in all homes and schools, parliaments and religious establishments. It is an unsentimental study of animals and how we treat them in zoos, farms and laboratories. I don't think people will ever give up eating animals altogether; but the evidence is now too clear for us to ignore. It is obviously bad for us to eat so many, and we must cut down dramatically our exploitation of the silent

majority. At the end of this short life, we must meet our Maker; the first big shock will be the rage in heaven at our calculated and spectacular abuse of His finest creations: the second will be to find that God Himself is not human.

A great wave of birthdays of my favourite people, this month and next. How strange that we know people born in clumps. They are all remarkably dissimilar, and again I am uneasy about the veracity of zodiacal signs. When my hair was longer than Doris/Lucille, a positive mane and blonde, I used to claim I was a Leo just to hear them say "Of course, I could tell at once", when in fact I am a short-legged, home-loving Taurus, thick-set and hedonistic (or so the chart would have me believe). This month's people are Librans, of the Balance. If my tall, even-natured son had been born at his appointed hour he would have been a Scorpio, and American women would have changed seats rather than sit next to him on an aeroplane. Instead he was born on the sixteenth day of October sixteen years ago, and the balance tipped at only 4lb something. But growing up is strange. I suppose I am now firmly

in the realms of adulthood, although having questioned my age group, I find we expect the real grown-ups to run important things and we will help out, like senior prefects. Today's children watch us with impatient amusement from the french windows while we dance on and on, steps slipping, thin hair flying, until the music changes and we are bundled off to get our coats while they take their partners. Tiptoeing past the door to our carriages, we see that our golden successors are already fading to grey, as the children of tomorrow and tomorrow stroll on the lawns, waiting their turn. The world goes round and the road runs on.

I am about to go off duty for a while. I shall defrost the fridge, visit Vienna, start writing a television series, buy or sell the flat, make my own Christmas cards, grow or cut my hair and purchase a piano. I shall not stand for Parliament, fall asleep in the theatre, make long-term plans, stop smoking, emigrate or have a hair transplant. Before too long, I hope to be back here again, until then ave atque vale.

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When we arrive at the Comedy Theatre to see *Little Shop of Horrors* on a preview matinee, we notice from the programme slip that Ellen Greene won't be singing as she has strained her voice; her understudy will play the part instead. What a shame, whispers the foyer, poor girl and the show not even open yet. Then we hear that the understudy has only had an hour's rehearsal with the whole cast. What an experience, we all shudder, poor girl and such a full house. Understudies are pretty remarkable people though; constantly ready to mobilize and seldom required to do so, simmering, par-boiled, with only a few hours' warning to produce a cordon bleu performance. In the event, the show was a rare pleasure, and the understudy, tottering about on four-inch heels, sang like an angel and was greeted with roars of delight. What a comfort for the splendid Miss Greene to know that she has Claire Moore in the wings if the going gets rough; and what a spur to theatre producers to know that in Miss Moore they have a comedienne and a singer who should probably step out of the shadows and star in her own show.

A lot of writing to do: serious deployment of delaying tactics. Having polished everything in sight, I seized on the notion of washing my bedroom curtains. The pad and pencils waited in the writing room, laid out neatly as in a formal examination, quietly reproachful through the open door. These are the facts: they are actually old curtains, which happened to fit the windows, with new curtains grafted on to them, so the old ones become the lining. If I change the colour schemes, I shall simply buy more stuff and sew it on top of these ones, gradually draughtproofing the house by creating eiderdown-sized hangings at the windows. When the curtains came out of the fab washing machine, the lining (or understudy) curtains, which are green, had grown about six inches. My intention was to sew them on location, as it were, simply to hang them up again damp, and let them air over the radiator which, being October, has just been activated and is so hot that the paint is beginning to squeak and crack. The only way to rehang them on the wooden rings, with bloodless arms plucking feebly at the flimsy hooks, was to fold them loosely on my head

and stand half on the bookcase and half on the scalding pipes. I pulled the hems of the newer curtains, both to make them grow and to iron them but they couldn't match the green ones which hung down like wet knickers. Two hours later, they were bone dry, the rising heat having puffed and crisped the two halves so they are like giant samosas or huge unbiddable spinnakers.

Things I wish I hadn't heard: that Elvis Presley's hair was pure white when he died (or so his hairdresser

TALKBACK

Insult to injury

From Mrs D R Pick, 7 Clinton Terrace, Budeigh, Salterton, Devon

I read the report on Alzheimer's Disease (September 16), and would like to give a warning to wives who are caring for husbands with this distressing complaint. My husband is at an advanced stage of the disease so last year I decided that life would be easier for me if we moved to a smaller house. As all our assets are held jointly, I consulted a solicitor who said that I would have to apply to the Court of Protection so that a partner in the firm could sign the conveyance on my husband's behalf.

I received a great shock after the hearing when I received a letter from the solicitor to say that the court intended to close our bank accounts and invest the proceeds at its discretion along with other money we have invested. I shall also be required to submit accounts of all expenditure to the court. It would appear that the court can legally confiscate a wife's contributions along with the husband's, and then make charges for the service.

In view of the added stress and aggravation I have suffered over the last nine months, I think a wife in my position would be well advised to ask her husband to transfer his share of their assets to her at the onset of Alzheimer's disease or any other mentally crippling illness. I am in no doubt that my husband would have done this for me and that he would have been appalled if he'd known about this treatment.

Analysis can help

From Joan Hunter, psychotherapist, 25 Eton Rise, Eton College Road, London, NW3

As Caroline Moorehead's article (September 16) may have aroused fear as well as compassion, it seems important to mention that many people may experience disturbances while aging which can be successfully treated by therapy based on psychoanalytical theory.

Mr Brown, for instance, aged 82, had always seemed well able to cope, but was staying in bed, incontinent. The consultant resisted pressure to admit him to hospital and he was visited in his own home for 12 therapy sessions. Mr Brown's response was remarkable and he was able to resolve the inner conflict, which stemmed partly from unresolved grief, in the time allowed.

Mrs Smith, an intelligent woman, felt responsible when her husband died, doubting her own right to live. In just over two years the burden of guilt was sufficiently lightened for therapy to end.

Self-fulfilling pap

From Mrs Sue Wood, 33 Gills Hill, Radlett, Hertfordshire

How I agree and sincerely sympathize with the views expressed by Carol Sarler (Friday Page, October 14), former editor of *Honey*. Not only are women's magazines dominated by male managers, but so are the horrendous comics for teenage girls.

These papers continually suggest that girls are failures if they don't look pretty for their boyfriend. Right from the start, girls are given the impression that they exist only in so far as they are noticed by the opposite sex.

No wonder many women only want "fashion and beauty spiced with a bit of emotion and romance", if they have been fed on this rubbish.

Vogue figures

From F. C. Beech, deputy managing director, Conde Nast Publications, Vogue House, Hanover Square, London W1

I have just read the piece by Carol Sarler (Friday Page, October 14), "My sour taste of *Honey*", and must point out that she makes a completely erroneous statement relating to the circulation of *Vogue*.

The current circulation of *Vogue* (ABC Jan/June 1983) is 165,836, the highest since 1965, since when the circulation has risen steadily year by year.

To the manor grown

Picture a commanding woman and two national figures spring to mind. The second of these, bet, will be Penelope Keith. It is entirely fitting that this talented actress has risen to fame during the Thatcher years, proving that, deep down, a number of us need to be in the thrall of a woman with a carrying voice and Home Counties assurance.

Whether this assurance is inbred or acquired is sometimes hard to tell; recently we've become aware that nobody is quite as they seem. In the case of actresses, however, this is as it should be. After all, they deal in masks. Penelope Keith made her name with a succession of bossy, upper-class types, each distinct and each horribly recognizable. Sarah in *The Norman Conquests*, Margaret in *The Good Life* and Audrey in *To the Manor Born*, a show that attracted 28 million viewers. Such was their familiarity that Penelope Keith was presumed to be like that. When seen in bed with Ian McKellan in the film *The Priest of Love*, the newspapers screamed: "Audrey, what are you doing?"

"I used to be annoyed", says Miss Keith "but I don't mind now. I've realized that I was being a bit of a bitch."

Because she isn't like that, of course. Not quite. She was, indeed, born in Surrey, an only child, and now lives in stockbroker Sussex. She has a creamy, well-bred complexion - "I may not have much else, but I do have good skin". And in her dressing room among the make-up and wigs, there is a pair of stout wellies and a dog bowl.

But there the resemblance

ends. Her voice is extravagant, but it has the bracing quality found in theatrical rather than headscarf circles. And though she adores her corgi, she cites as fellow corgi-fanciers not royalty but her old friend Ava Gardner.

For she is an actress through and through, a hundred per cent showbiz pro, who for many years toiled her way up through the hardest of apprenticeships, working in rep for £7 a week "in those bring-your-own-clothes days", doing understudies and walk-ons, waiting months for the phone to ring, and being familiar with the silent part of the "third citizen". When she made it to Stratford she played everything from a whore to a tree. "The others all played lovely floppy goddesses and I stood there like this", she demonstrates, "with a bit of bark on my head". Then in her late 30s came the big break: Wanda in *Kate*, then *The Norman Conquests* and on to *The Good Life*.

Now she is playing another variant of the dominating woman in *Sweet Sixteen*, currently showing on BBC TV. This time, however, it is a modern, more liberated version, who has an affair with a man 16 years her junior.

Such is her popularity nowadays that she can pack any theatre. This is invigorating for the West End. As she says, television has not killed the theatre any more than it has killed reading - it stimulates people to go out and see the star in the flesh.

But it has raised expectations", she says, "which is no bad thing. The standard on TV is so high that the live product - hateful word - has to be good."

This is a challenge she rises to meet. She herself is happy working for either medium, whether trudging around in the mud of a building site for *Sweet Sixteen* or adjusting her subtle comic timing for a live audience, whose presence alters each performance.

Although once she might have thought herself plain, in her mid-40s she is now a handsome, radiant woman, visibly happy both in her professional and private life. The private happiness she attributes to Rodney, a young policeman who she married five years ago and on whom she obviously dotes. They met while she was playing in Chichester and he was on bomb duty. At the time the newspapers leapt upon this delightfully unlikely match, and there was also a certain amount of muck-raking. "He said he didn't mind, but I know he did. I did, for him. Thank heavens it's died down now. But it makes one cynical."

Recovered from this, Rodney is now the focus of her home life. "I cook and he eats", she says with a laugh. He is also increasingly involved in her career.

There is a certain yeasty confidence about her that obviously sees that things get done. Nowadays, done by herself. In a remarkable step for an actress, she has set up her own production company, *Hay Fever*, which opens in London next week, is its first show. She is both its star and impresario.

"I'm not knocking producers, but their job is to raise money. There's often a gulf between them and the cast. And as an

actress I've often felt that I'm simply being used, like a racehorse." She pauses. "Well, a racehorse with brains."

"There are certain things that a producer doesn't know much about - for instance, I know how to get the right person to do the wigs. I know what makes a play work - not just for the first night but what makes it carry on well, or not so well, over the months of its run. As much, if not more, care must be taken then - strange things happen to you after four or five months in a show. I thought it would be good to mount a production from the actor's point of view."

"Then there's the marketing. It isn't just the readers of serious newspapers who come to the theatre, yet plays are only advertised in the heavies. Many producers are elitist - not in what sort of shows they mount, but what they presume their audience to be. I want to change that."

Such is her exuberance and authority, as she says this, that one believes her. She is riding high and is finding that there are indeed rewards in being the boss. Some are born to it, some have it thrust upon them. For others, like Penelope Keith, it is a role they've worked hard to earn.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are coming to see *Hay Fever* next week. This is a great honour. "I've told the cast they have to act backwards", she says, shrieking with laughter. It's only a joke, of course. But with this mistress of disguise, you can't always tell when she's playing a part.

Deborah Moggach



Penelope Keith: "used like a racehorse with brains"

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November issue out now



THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

Talking Chinglish

the stir-fried dishes warm as each is cooked.

The paper-wrapped chicken calls for deep frying. This is most economically done in a wok, which uses less oil than a saucepan. Have a heatproof pan or casserole handy to pour the boiling oil into when frying is completed.

Resist the very real temptation to try to prepare too many stir-fried dishes for one meal. Four, including fried rice and at least one vegetable dish, is as much as is feasible if they are to be served fresh. Begin with the rice which keeps warm quite well, and cook a vegetable dish last so that the crispness, which is the essence of Chinese vegetable cooking, is not lost.

A fillet of pork roasted in the Chinese style is especially easy. The marinade becomes a richly flavoured glaze and the boneless meat is carved into neat slices which are served fanned on a warm plate. Fillet of veal, loin of lamb or even fillet steak could be cooked in the same way with allowance made in the cooking time for a different thickness of meat.

Chinese roast pork
Serves four to six
680g (1½lb) fillet of tenderloin of pork

For the marinade

1cm (½ inch) cube fresh ginger
1½ tablespoons soy sauce
1½ tablespoons peanut (groundnut) oil

Crush the ginger in a garlic press and combine it with the remaining marinade ingredients. Add the pork and turn it in the marinade to coat all sides. Leave it to marinate for about

two hours, turning it once or twice.

Set the pork on a rack in a roasting tin and roast it in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for 20 minutes, turning it once.

Rest the meat in a warm place for 10 minutes before slicing it.

Fried rice
Serves four to six

450g (1lb) boiled rice
1 tablespoon salt
4 tablespoons peanut (groundnut) oil

2 spring onions, finely sliced
½ clove garlic, finely chopped
2 eggs, beaten

110g (4oz) shelled shrimps or prawns, cooked
110g (4oz) finely diced ham or pork

55g (2oz) peas
450g (1lb) boiled rice

Mix the rice with the salt and set it aside. Heat the wok and add 1 tablespoon of oil. Add the spring onions and garlic, stir and add the egg. Stir fry until the egg is cooked and turn it out of the wok. Add another tablespoon of oil to the wok then the prawns, ham or pork and peas. Cook them for a minute before adding the remaining oil, the rice and the egg. Stir-fry, lifting the mixture to combine the ingredients well, for two minutes. Turn the fried rice into a warm serving bowl.

Crab with black bean and chilli is a strongly flavoured dish which can also be made with lobster, or with prawns, or out of their shells. The cooked crab claws in their shells which Marks and Spencer have been selling recently are ideal for this dish.

Crab with black bean and chilli
Serves four to six

2 freshly cooked crabs weighing about 1kg (2lb 3oz) each, or 12 crab claws

2.5cm (1 inch) cube fresh ginger
2 teaspoons salt

2 tablespoons salted black beans
5 tablespoons light stock or water
2 tablespoons dry sherry

1 tablespoon soy sauce
½ teaspoon tabasco sauce, or ¼ teaspoon chilli powder

5 tablespoons peanut (groundnut) oil
8 spring onions cut in 4cm (1½ inch) lengths

Separate the main top shell from the body of each crab. Crack the claws and shells. Chop each body into quarters and pull away the sack under the eyes which is attached to the

mouth. Grate finely or crush the ginger and mix it with the salt. Rub this mixture all over the pieces of crab and set it aside.

Soak the black beans in a cup of cold water for half an hour then drain them.

Combine the stock or water with the sherry, soy sauce and tabasco or ground chilli.

Heat the oil in the wok and when it is very hot add the onions and black beans. Stir-fry them for half a minute then add the crab and stir-fry it for four minutes. Pour the liquid mixture over the crab and stir-fry the dish for a minute more before turning it into a warmed bowl to serve.

Paper-wrapped chicken is warmly spiced but not hot, and calls for rice paper - the kind used on the bottom of macaroons and ratisias - which is deliciously crisp when fried.

Paper-wrapped chicken
Serves four to six

1½ teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon five-spice powder
1 teaspoon monosodium glutamate or taste powder (optional)

2 tablespoons oyster sauce
1 tablespoon cornflour

3 tablespoons peanut (groundnut) oil
4 boned and skinned chicken breasts

1 packet rice paper
Oil for deep frying (peanut again)

Combine the sugar, salt, five-spice powder, monosodium glutamate or taste powder (if using), oyster sauce and cornflour and mix them to a smooth paste. Cut each chicken breast into six or eight diagonal slices of roughly equal size and turn them in the marinade to coat all sides. Leave them to marinate for at least an hour.

The next step is to wrap the chicken pieces into little rice-paper packets for deep-frying. A loosely rolled cylinder, the ends of which can be tucked in securely, is the easiest package to make with small rectangles of rice paper. Pieces about 15cm (6 inches) by 10cm (4 inches) are about right.

Wrap the chicken as close to the time it will be fried as possible. Heat a good quantity of oil in a wok or pan to a temperature of 190/200°C (375/400°F), and fry the chicken, a few pieces at a time, for two to two-and-a-half minutes. Drain on absorbent kitchen paper and serve as quickly as possible.

THE TIMES DIARY

Battle renewed

The camaraderie that marked the opening of the Turner exhibition at the Grand Palais in Paris concealed a degree of Anglo-French tension over the selection of pictures. I gather from Bryan Swingle, the British Council's representative in France, that in response to the British choice of the recently restored *The Field of Waterloo*, not seen in public since 1817, the French selection team, led by Michel Lacroix, conservateur en chef in the Musée du Louvre's department of paintings, insisted on Turner's *The Burning of the Houses of Commons and Lords*. This painting was splashed on the French posters advertising the event, the largest Turner exhibition ever held abroad and the last before the Turner bequest is permanently housed in the new Clive Gallery in London.

Not content to let matters rest there, the British selectors, who included Alan Bowness, director of the Tate Gallery, replied with *The Exile and the Rock Limpet*, Turner's portrait of a gloomy Napoleon on Elba.

● The London School of Economics' proposed racecourse will be scratched while it is still only a gleam in its prospective owners' eyes if *Tariq Ali* has his way. The ageing firebrand told the LSE Labour Club yesterday that spending the students' £10,000 windfall to such effect would be an "obscenity" and called on the entire Labour group to attend tomorrow's student union meeting to vote the project down.

BARRY FANTONI



Beaux' art

Perhaps it was the excitement of being in the same room as Tom Wolfe, chronicler of "radical chic", and Peter York, who took Sloane Ranges into the mainstream, that caused one woman in the audience to faint while Wolfe was giving this year's T. S. Eliot Memorial Lecture at the University of Kent. York, who starts a series of lectures on Channel 4 next month, was also in the audience that heard Wolfe describe the clothes people in the art world wear. He himself was clad in his trademark uniform of white shirt and Eton college shirt which, with his silky hair and tortoiseshell framed spectacles, give him the look of a dapper schoolboy. York, in a fine grey suit with cuffs and turn-ups, blue shirt, gold tie, and narrow black suede shoes, was more like an anglicized teddy boy.

What both superstylists could have done with on a chilly walk across the campus to the senior common room was orthodox overcoats.

● Mrs Thatcher's ministerial changes have everywhere been seen as a shift to the right. It has not gone unnoticed that John Moore, the energetic new Financial Secretary to the Treasury, likes to keep a jar of President Reagan's favourite jelly beans in easy reach.

Speechless

Lord Franks told a nice story against himself at the Institute of Historical Research in London the other day about the invariably laconic Clement Attlee, the observance of whose centenary is concluded tonight.

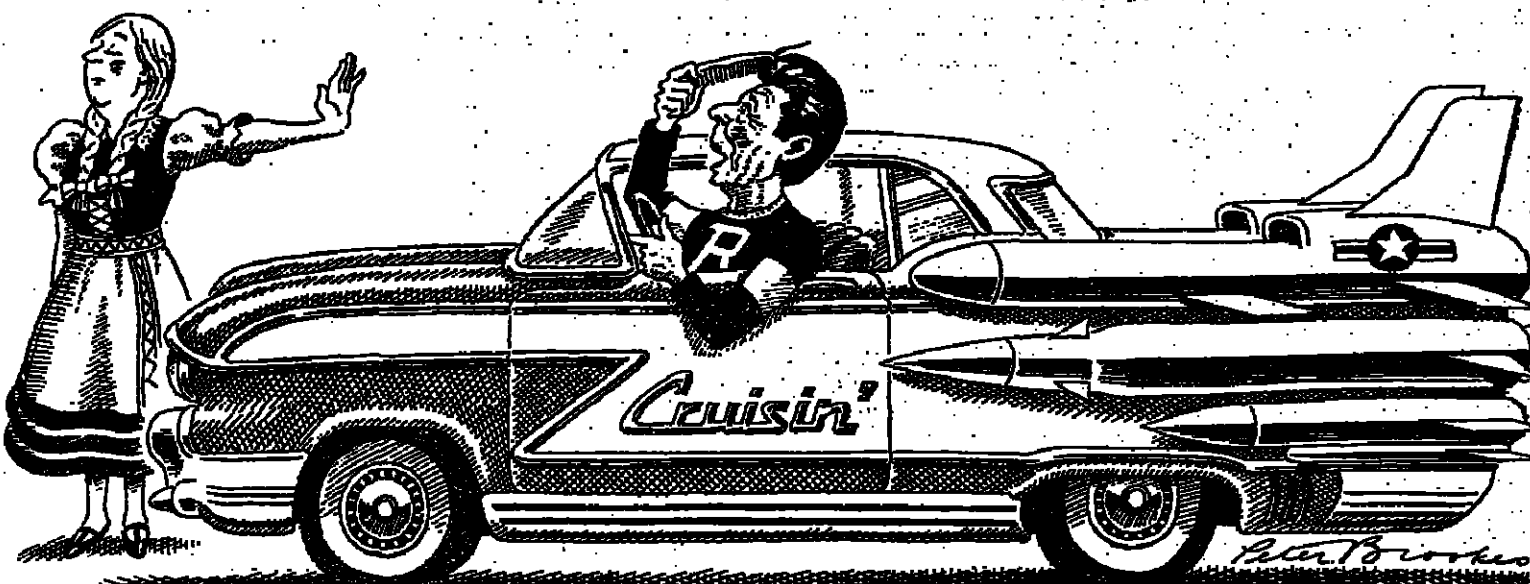
Attlee's taciturn presence was required in Washington in 1950 for a summit with President Truman on the Korean war. Afterwards, there was to be a regular meeting of Commonwealth ambassadors to Washington, which Lord Franks would convene in the dining room of the British embassy. Attlee was persuaded to attend in the hope that he might actually, for once, say something. Lord Franks, who also tends to economy in his use of words, forced himself to speak for 10 minutes on such thorny issues as the "potential use of atomic weapons in Korea, reasoning that such a performance might warm Attlee up a bit.

At last, his ordeal at an end, the speaker turned to the guest of honour with an expectant "Prime Minister?" Came the reply: "Quite."

My observer at the socialist prime ministers' get-together in a beach resort hotel north of Athens tells me this was the first time the five socialist leaders of Portugal, Spain, Italy, France and Greece - known as "the sun-belt socialist" - had met as prime ministers. One visible difference from previous meetings was that the five were no longer "tense and shirt-sleeved". They wore jackets, although Italy's Bettino Craxi insisted on blue jeans with a dispartate coat, and Spain's Felipe Gonzalez donned a wind-cheater (with shirt and tie) but made up for it by smoking cigars. I understand that other differences, over policy, were hardly less visible.

PHS

From deference to divergence: Michael Binyon charts the new mood



Why West Germany says stop

Bonn Is West Germany going neutral? As demonstrators of all ages and classes take to the streets in thousands, the old question suddenly takes on new urgency. For the new Nato missiles have not only caused alarm throughout the country, but they have smashed the postwar consensus on the fundamentals of the Federal Republic's existence - its security alliances, national interests and position in the Western world. Whatever reassurances the government gives its western allies, there is a feeling here that things have changed irrevocably. The peace movement is here to stay.

It is not simply that the opposition to deployment is fiercer and more deeply felt in West Germany than anywhere else in Nato. The peace movement, consisting of the young, the Greens, the churches, the trade unions and a large part of the country's intelligentsia, has its roots in the continuing trauma of the Second World War, the universal horror of those memories.

The missile debate has assumed a new dimension. It has coincided with a revival of German feeling, a belief, especially on the left and among the young, that it is time for the country to assert itself more, stand up to the Americans and follow policies it believes to be in its own interest, even if Reagan's Washington does not. This feeling, crudely dubbed as left-wing nationalism though far removed from the old ideas of German nationalism, now has a dynamic of its own. It is beginning to sweep up in its wake people and politicians who have long subscribed to the Adenauer view of the Federal Republic anchored in the western alliance and the main European pillar on which transatlantic friendship rests.

Many people now believe that it is the Americans who are forcing the missiles on Germany. The Social Democrats in particular have forgotten that it was their own leader, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who campaigned long and hard to persuade the reluctant Americans to protect West Germany with missiles that could match the Soviet SS20s. Instead the party now speaks as though Washington wants the Pershings deployed at any cost in order to be able to wage a limited nuclear war on German soil.

It is no use the government or outsiders insisting that West Germany is bound by the Nato alliance, or pointing out that the new weapons are not quantitatively such a big change by comparison to the destructive power of those already stationed here. The Pershings have become symbols for all the other weapons. "Enough is enough", is the common response. A country already more thickly forested with instruments of war than any of its neighbours simply cannot go on piling up arms, people say.

Such an attitude inevitably casts the Americans not in the role of protectors, but of occupiers. And the guilt-free generation, no longer burdened with the responsibility of fighting and losing a war, is beginning to resent the American presence. Its search for German roots and identity invariably collides with what is seen as the Americanization of German society - the obsessive materialism, the daily bombardment of the German language with English expressions, the whole postwar rebuilding of the Federal Republic in the American image.

German interests are thus seen mainly in distinction to those of the United States. And the contrast is made with East Germany. Despite its political servility to Moscow, visitors find with surprise it has

remained more traditionally German, more Central European, in both sentiment and way of life.

Few people, even the left-wingers, want their country to become like East Germany. But the dream of reunification - quickly dropped from the political vocabulary during the years of détente when it was seen as a stumbling block to closer relations with the East - has been revived, if changed. Now it is a dream as much of the left as it was of the right, only this time the left believes it is West Germany that must also change political direction, not just East Germany.

The argument thus moves towards neutralism, a distancing from Nato in order to give West Germany room to steer an independent policy, if possible deepening the dialogue with the Soviet Union. Such a development has of course long been a prime Soviet aim, and the Soviets are astute at using both sticks and carrots to entice West Germany to look East. But many Germans themselves recognize this as a familiar role in their history - more familiar, perhaps, than looking across the Atlantic - and one that is already beginning to bring results in contacts at all levels between East and West Germany.

Already the missile debate has pushed the Social Democrats far along this road. The party has virtually decided on unconditional rejection of any deployment. But the leftward momentum is quickly taking it further. Herr Peter Giotz, the party manager, called recently for a "phased revision of the German role in Nato", and said Germany could not permit the unrestricted storage of nuclear weapons on their soil in the long term.

The peace movement has also moved ahead. Despite the huge

demonstrations, its leaders probably know they cannot now prevent the missiles arriving. But their protests have at least made it extremely difficult for any other West European government to opt for new nuclear weapons in the future. And the Bonn government, if it wants to restore any consensus in the increasingly polarized debate on security, German interests and the Atlantic alliance, will have to listen to the many voices speaking through the peace movement. That movement is already thinking about the next stage: the campaign to get the missiles taken away again, and with them perhaps some of the other weapons that foreign armies keep on German soil in both East and West.

The government and the Christian Democrats are standing firm by the western alliance. Indeed one of Chancellor Kohl's priorities has been to restore good relations with Washington. But even within these ranks there is a hint that the days are over of automatic German deference to the views of the Americans. The present government senses the mood of the country, and will not change this mood simply by reaffirming a hard line towards the East. Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, has said that time and again. And no one has made it so dramatically plain as the old lion of Bavaria, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, on his summer trip to East Germany.

The demonstrations do not mean that Germany is weakening in its resolve, or that it can no longer be relied on by its western partners. But they do show how deep down the missile debate reaches, how different the situation is here from that of countries more settled in their convictions about their future. How dangerous it is for others to ignore the new feelings surfacing now in Germany.

Jack Bruce-Gardyne

Put us on the right track, minister

It's an ill wind. However, wretched the circumstances of last weekend's Cabinet reshuffle - and they don't come much more wretched in my book - there's one aspect of it which gives me unalloyed pleasure: the elevation of Nicholas Ridley to the Cabinet as Transport Secretary.

It was long overdue, and goes to prove that in the fickle world of politics ability against the odds is still occasionally rewarded. Although he comes from one of the great Tory families of the north of England, Ridley has had to fight every inch of the way.

Before the 1970 election he played a key role in shaping the Tory party's approach to industrial policy; yet within two years - when the climate changed, he was dispatched without ceremony to the back benches. In the later 1970s he conducted a series of brilliant and entertaining one-man parliamentary forays to expose the follies of the Callaghan government's so-called "industrial strategy". Yet when the 1979 government was formed he was appointed - to the surprise of some of us - to the Foreign Office and given charge of the apparent backwater of Latin America. Had a handful of loudmouths on the backbenches not succeeded in ditching his plans for a Hongkong solution for the Falklands, there might have been no Falklands war; but they did.

As Financial Secretary to the Treasury he then carried perhaps the heaviest workload of the hardest-worked of all departmental teams (I write with feeling). And throughout it all he has consistently demonstrated that ministers can be more than Jim Hackers if they have the character for the task. He would be an asset to any Cabinet.

Having got that deserved - perhaps off my chest, I have a little task for him. One of the early acts of the first Thatcher government was to set up a London Docklands Development Corporation under the chairmanship of Mr Nigel Brookes of Trafalgar fame, to bring life back to a part of the East End which the dockers (with judicious assistance from the likes of Mr Jack Jones and Lord Aldington) had turned into something of a dead zone. One of the early conclusions of Mr Brookes and his corporation was that you could not develop the docklands unless first you could get to the docks. Which, by existing public transport, on the whole you could not.

So it was decided that the docklands must have a railway of one sort or another. What emerged eventually was a plan for a light rail transit system, to connect the Isle of Dogs to Tower Hill in one direction and Stratford in the other, at a cost of £77m.

London Transport duly promoted a private Bill, which is now before the House of Lords, and which - all being well - should get the royal assent before Christmas. Thereafter the LDDC will be going out to tender. And this is where the plot thickens.

London Transport has set its heart on a scheme to use existing railway track linked up where necessary by specially-built street tramway tracks, and there are a number of contenders to supply such a system, involving steel wheel

on steel rail technology. There is, however, a rival proposition promoted by a consortium headed by Lord Plummer, the former Tory leader of the GLC. This would be based on the technology developed by the French group Matra for the city of Lille, involving a specially-constructed track to carry cars in pairs on rubber wheels.

According to Lord Plummer and his men their scheme would be swifter, cheaper and more economical while vastly reducing noise nuisance. Since it would be entirely computerized to eliminate the need for drivers and manpower to couple on additional units in the rush hour, it could be operated to produce a commercial rate of return as it does in Lille, either by the consortium as agent for London Transport, or in partnership with London Transport; and hence could be financed from private capital (which has been lined up). Furthermore, they claim, the



Nicholas Ridley: an early task

Matra technology (which would be 80 per cent built in the UK) has, unlike the traditional rail technology, worldwide export potential.

Well, they would say all that, wouldn't they? There is, however, one aspect of their case which Nicholas Ridley might care to have a look at. As I say, London Transport has throughout backed the steel wheel concept. So back in June Lord Plummer wrote to the LDDC to ask whether it was in fact prepared to consider tenders involving a different technology. The LDDC replied that it had agreed with the GLC that "the system performance specification should be drawn up on the basis of the concept of steel wheel on steel rail". Lord Plummer wrote back in August to ask why tender conditions should be drafted to exclude alternative technology. He has had no reply. Yet it seems a pertinent question.

Could it be that Aslef and the NUR and their friends on the GLC are afraid that if the Matra computerized technology were once used for dockland someone might think of developing it to meet the needs of commuters more generally? And what would become of the train drivers then?

Lord Bruce-Gardyne was Economic Secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

Charles McKean

A blueprint for bad design

Yesterday, Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, was joining architectural competitions. This old-fashioned device is undergoing a revival at the moment, particularly in London, where it has been chosen as the means of settling how a prime site - such as the National Gallery extension or the "Green Giant" plot south of Vauxhall Bridge - should be developed.

Mr Jenkin does not want to stop there. In line with the government's overall aim to ensure that free competition works efficiently, he is seriously considering extending the notion to architects' fees. At the moment they are fixed by common consent of the architects, who offer their services for the same price, whether big or small, well-known or just beginners. If Mr Jenkin carries out his plan, this cartel will cease and architects will be expected to compete with each other for the cheapest deal.

The Government (being both directly and indirectly one of the largest clients for building work) will then select architects as much on the cost of their services as the quality of their product.

The current unpopularity of architects does not help their case. But architects are unpopular for their work as much as their incomes. Indeed, their incomes are not out of line with the job they do. Royal Institute of British Architects figures show a level of remuneration to architects lower than that of most other professions. This view is supported by that stern guardian of public morality, the Monopolies Commission, which found that architects were not "over-remunerated for their labours".

Architects' unpopularity has been earned - whether fairly or unfairly - for the poor quality of the product. Does the Government think that forcing better architecture? Architects have always maintained that the operation of standard fee scales allows the client to choose his architect solely on quality and reputation, in the knowledge that all architects cost the same. That gives small architects offices an equal chance with the large architectural factories.

Riba statistics, however, have shown that architects' offices are like the rest of business: the larger offices have greater operating margins and the smaller ones, which predominate in the profession, have no margins at all. If the Government persists with fee competition, the larger offices may have sufficient fat to cut their feet; the small offices may well close.

What would be the architectural consequence? Independent yardsticks of architectural quality, such as the Civic Trust awards and the Riba awards, show that most awards are won by the small offices, not the architectural factories which often produce mere buildings. Architecture can be dispensed with, yet people who are dissatisfied with modern buildings usually argue that there is too little architecture, not too much.

To buy architectural skills according to the lowest tender is like a patron wishing to buy modern art but buying only the cheapest, or a book-lover choosing authors by the cover prices. Mr Jenkin would no doubt say that the Government is not being as extreme as that and that architects' fees are only part of a wider evaluation of architects' skills and services. It is government officials, then, and those in official bodies who follow the Government's lead, who must in future make judgments between architectural fees and architectural quality. It implies the introduction of aesthetics into the training of civil servants - a new breed of aesthetic gauleiters.

Perhaps the Government is right. Perhaps we have had too much aesthetics and too much emotion since the war. What we need is good, straight building. It is happening already. Employees of the Housing Corporation are deleting what they call "architect's features" from new plans: no dormer windows, no arches, no friars. How can it be that Conservatives, of all people, are so intent on squeezing small businesses and encouraging a grey environment redolent of the soulless postwar developments of Eastern Europe? The author is Architecture Correspondent of The Times.

Attlee: the machine that worked

As the centenary year ends, Peter Hennessy and Andrew Arendt contrast the use of the Whitehall apparatus by two prime ministers with radical intentions

The finest compliment paid to Clement Attlee in 1983, his centenary year, was probably made soon after the election victory which returned Mrs Margaret Thatcher to power with a majority of 144 - only two seats fewer than the landslide which put Attlee into Downing Street in 1945.

Within a few weeks of their triumph at the polls the Conservatives felt the need to rubbish Attlee's legacy: chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to deal with the party political broadcast. To understand why we are now fighting a war against rising prices, it began, one has to return to 1945 when "the Attlee government committed itself to spending virtually half of what this country earned" in pursuit of its vision of a fairer society. In 1979 Mrs Thatcher reckoned she needed two terms (since extended to three) to undo Attlee's legacy, so robust were the statutes, institutions and, above all, the attitudes of mind established between 1945 and 1951.

Attlee's centenary has been a fairly quiet affair which ends with a reception this evening at New Zealand House in London. He would not have minded - he hated fuss. Yet his stock among historians, usually the final arbiters on these matters, is rising steadily. In 1945 Britain was broke. But the Attlee administration achieved big things - the welfare state, the efficient demobilisation of five million men and women from the Armed Forces, a remarkable export-led recovery, Indian independence and the foundation of Nato. The sheer effectiveness of "Little Clem", as Ernest Bevin invariably called him, is evident not just in retrospect, but in the official papers of the administration now released from the Public Record Office.

From 1945 to 1951 Britain was governed by committee: the Cabinet and its committees, the engine room of central government, proliferated to a grand total of 454 (148 standing and 306 ad hoc). Yet it worked, and the model is still followed. North American observers of Whitehall are amazed at the continuity of the British Cabinet committee system, even under a mould-breaking prime minister like Mrs Thatcher. The Washington machine is refashioned each time a new man enters the White House.

It was his style to use a handful of strategic standing committees on economic policy, defence, home affairs (known at that time as the Lord President's committee) and the socialisation (their phrase for public ownership) of industries, to handle the big issues that tended to persist through the lifetime of the adminis-



tration, such as a dollar shortage and the nationalisation programme.

Beneath them was a host of lesser committees, like the production committee, chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to deal with the detailed implementation of policy and day-to-day developments. On big, one-off decisions - the production of a British atom bomb or the transition to independence of the Indian sub-continent - Attlee would commission a special group.

The workload and the gravity of the issues in what Lord Bullock, Bevin's biographer, has called the "decade of decisions" was staggering. Take the second week of January, 1947. In addition to the usual flow of Cabinet business, Attlee presided over five meetings of the India and Burma committee, the defence committee was preoccupied with Palestine, a special committee was established to prepare to put troops in the London west-markets if lorry drivers refused to move the rationed, and a tiny group of ministers, chaired by Attlee, known as GEN 163 met and decided that Britain would become a nuclear power despite the cutting-off of atomic collaboration by the Americans.

The second person a new Prime Minister sees on entering Number 10 (the first is the Chief Private Secretary) is the chief mechanic of

the Whitehall machine, the Secretary of the Cabinet. He tells the new incumbent which items are the most urgent subjects for collective decision and suggests one or two standing committees which might be set up straight away. The smooth running of the machine and the reassuring ways of the Cabinet Secretary are very seductive for a newcomer.

Mrs Thatcher's engine room is a recognisable miniature of the Attlee model. In 1979 she cavilled when Sir John Hunt performed the ancient continuity rite. "Why do I need any Cabinet committees at all? I have ministers running their departments - let them decide," was her line. "Events," as one insider put it, "soon took care of that."

The Prime Minister, however, has never been easy with the Whitehall machine. She seems to resent it as an encumbrance, albeit a necessary one. The collective machinery of reaching decisions goes against the grain of the Thatcher style, though she has found no alternative to it.

Compared to Attlee, who made the machine yield for him, this is a weakness. Attlee knew he had to devote a great deal of business to avoid overloading himself. Herbert Morrison, chairing the socialisation of industries committee, for example, and Sir Stafford Cripps, running the production committee, relieved him of many burdens. Up



Attlee and supporters in his Lincolnshire constituency on the eve of the 1945 poll, and two key ministers who relieved him of some of the burdens of office. Top, Herbert Morrison, chairman of the committee on nationalisation, and Sir Stafford Cripps, who ran the production committee.

to a point Mrs Thatcher uses Lord Whitehall in this role, but she has not made a virtue of it and does not possess Attlee's sensitive touch at the tiller.

Though she is a "small government" prime minister as opposed to a "big government" one like Attlee, rolling back the frontiers of the state requires, at least initially, just as powerful and efficient a Whitehall machine as a political programme bent on extending those frontiers. Sir John Hoskyns, her former senior policy adviser, has recognized this. In his recent Institute of Directors lecture, he said: "Ministerial and official committees all too often degenerate into the goal-free trading of departmental views stockpiled from previous years."

Mrs Thatcher may recoil from the legacy of 1945-51, but when it comes to the mechanics of political achievement - getting from where you are today to where you want to be in five years - she has a great deal to learn from "Mr Attlee's engine room".

Mr Attlee's Engine Room: Cabinet Committee Structure, 1945-51, by Peter Hennessy and Andrew Arendt is published today. (Stratfordville Papers on Government and Politics No. 26, Politics Department, Strathclyde University, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ, £3.50).



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SOOTHING BUT NOT SOFT

It is a mark of how far the context of political debate has moved since 1979 that the latest ministerial reshuffle has been discussed first of all in terms of its implications for the Department of Trade and Industry. Reform of labour law was a central part of the first Thatcher Government's strategy, but now it has come to appear a less urgent object of ministerial attention than sharpening industrial efficiency and stimulating exports. This order of priorities is the right one at present. We live by trade, and the decisions that need to be taken in the coming months about privatization and tariffs are of the greatest importance. With two Acts of Parliament on the statute book and a Bill already fully drafted in almost all essentials and sure of a safe passage, the Department of Labour is by comparison almost coasting along. Will Mr Tom King find enough on his new desk to keep an able and active minister occupied? Has he been chosen, indeed, as an amiable character whose chief role will be to soothe those feelings of trade union leaders which the caustic mockery of Mr Tebbit has left so ruffled?

Mr Tebbit himself had already gone some way since the election to indicate that he was not quite the stony-hearted muckraker of trade union pretensions that he had been made out to be. Constrained meetings with TUC leaders had already ended the fruitless silence which they had sustained for so many months. The talks on the political levy, which Mr King must take up today, had been making some

progress. It was well judged to allow relations to soften, so far as that could be done without sacrificing essentials and to develop the possibilities implicit in Mr Tebbit's conference claim that "We are a party of trade unionists".

But Mr Tebbit was in a stronger position to be seen mellowing than Mr King can afford to be. The TUC leaders he meets know very well that he is a man who sets great store by establishing a good working relationship. It will have occurred to them that this may make him a soft touch. He is not, but he will need initially to be at pains to prove it. With publication of the Bill expected in only a few days, there is scarcely time to complete the manoeuvres of getting acquainted, and seriously getting to work on a compromise before the Bill starts its progress through the Commons. There will still be a little time left to do so afterwards.

It is certainly the case that many union members whether through inertia or timidity, fail to opt out of the political levy when they would probably never have opted in. The importance of the issue for the finances of the Labour Party requires the Government to show that it is not acting in a spirit of party vindictiveness. A reversal of the rule would therefore in fairness require a corresponding change in company rules to give shareholders an equally active role in decisions about political contributions. But union members have a right to make what Mr Tebbit called a "free, unfettered, fair and informed decision". Any

proposals that the unions put forward for a compromise avoiding legislation must effectively satisfy these conditions, not only in theory, but also on the shopfloor. Mr King must not accept guarantees which fall short of that.

The Government has put off for a later stage the other main outstanding manifesto commitment, to bind workers in essential industries to procedure agreements breach of which would involve the loss of immunities. There is more public debate needed on these proposals, attractive in principle but hedged round with practical difficulties.

It cannot be taken for granted that the unions will remain in the disarray that Mr Tebbit was able to take advantage of. There are resources of pragmatism and strength in the movement which could be seen stirring to life at the TUC annual conference after a period of negative sterility. An adroit Government may secure advantages for both sides by responding to these developments. The TUC's attitudes may be tested very soon if the telecommunications company Mercury wins the first significant court case invoking the new law on immunities. The TUC will then have to choose whether to adopt the course of automatic confrontation which it would certainly have taken in the past. That would be to destroy all incipient hopes of an improved relationship bringing advantages to both sides, and test to the full not only Mr King's ebullient qualities, but also the steel which is in his character as well.

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN; AND ONE WOMAN

President Reagan's increasing pragmatism has dismayed some of his more zealous conservative supporters but reassured some of his NATO allies. This year the trend has been encouraged by the opinion polls which have shown that if Mr Reagan runs for election next year he could be defeated unless he makes more effort to capture the centre. He has therefore been exerting himself to overcome the impression that he is belligerent in foreign affairs and insensitive in domestic affairs, particularly to the interests of women, the poor and the ethnic minorities.

The departure of Mr William Clark was not planned as part of this effort. Indeed, the President has reportedly been resisting Mr Clark's requests for a move since last December. Nevertheless, having decided at last to accede to Mr Clark's desire for a job with less stress, and given the opportunity by the resignation of Mr James Watt, he was faced with the need to fill one of the most important jobs in his administration at a particularly crucial time. It was not only a question of finding the person but also of sending the right signals.

The two main contenders were Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick and Mr Robert McFarlane. Mrs Kirkpatrick is a powerful, intelligent personality with strong, clear views on the overriding need to face up to the Soviet threat. As ambassador to the United Nations she has spoken out strongly against critics of the United States and has partly resurrected earlier American policies of discriminating more sharply between allies and adver-

saries, leaving less room for the subtleties of non-alignment. She has had an important influence on the formation of US policies towards Central and Latin America. She is easily the most articulate member of the Administration and one of the few to give it a sense of coherence in foreign affairs.

Yesterday she lost her battle to move into the White House. Mr McFarlane was chosen instead. Mrs Kirkpatrick's strong personality would certainly have exacerbated the chronic problem of achieving a smooth working relationship between the State Department and the White House. That might not have helped the Administration with Congress or with the public in an election year. Besides, the job of National Security Adviser is more akin to the President's chief staff officer - a functionary rather than an independent mind - which would not have been entirely suitable for somebody of Mrs Kirkpatrick's calibre. She is anyway a member of the National Security Council, and, with the departure of Judge Clark, she should become even more influential a voice in its deliberations.

Mr McFarlane, on the other hand, is a professional functionary - a hard-working team player who is likely to have a lubricating effect on the machinery of government. He has more experience in foreign affairs than Mr Clark had on appointment, but he will not have the easy personal access to the President enjoyed by Mr Clark. On the face of it more power might revert to the State Department after a period in which it has been

accumulating in the White House, but not necessarily. The National Security Council always has the advantage of proximity to the President. Although Mr McFarlane was the preferred candidate of the State Department, he was also Mr Clark's nominee, which suggests that there will be no question of any State Department paramour.

On the other hand Mr McFarlane is liable to be by-passed by the Defence Department, where Mr Weinberger, who pressed the case for Mrs Kirkpatrick, has the same personal connections with the President as Mr Clark. At the same time other conservative supporters of the President will also resist the choice as yet further evidence of Mr Reagan's retreat from the purity of the doctrines he espoused while running for election. The White House calculation is presumably that the conservatives have nowhere else to go while the centre has, but it could mean that Mr McFarlane's office is exposed to some buffeting from conservative quarters, even though Mr Clark, in his new job, will be able to soften their disappointment at losing Mr Watt.

For the outside world the appointment could have a paradoxical effect. Although the electoral need to project a moderate image may well have played an important role, the fact that Mr McFarlane is not closely associated with electoral politics may help to dispel the impression that Mr Reagan's foreign policy decisions are unduly influenced by electoral considerations.

CRUSADING AGAINST QUEUES

The progress of medicine owes much to crusading physicians, prepared to buck profession, public or politicians in their commitment to lengthen life and ward off pain and disease. Doubtless, this tradition belongs Dr Cameron, professor of renal medicine at Guy's Hospital, who is reported as wanting to "get the public angry" over the insufficiency of treatment for kidney patients. It would be a pity if such enthusiasm were lost in the bureaucratic thickets of modern cost-benefit medicine. It would be tragic for the rational administration of the public health service if such enthusiasm were not balanced by hard-headed economizing medicine will always be as much concerned with apportioning limited resources as "the dismal science" itself.

Involved debate about priorities in renal medicine (notably haemodialysis) has been going on for years and continues even in the United States where 300 per cent more patients are accepted for dialysis and transplantation of kidneys than in Great Britain. Interest 20 years ago in the development of artificial kidneys attached as much to the way in which patients were selected for treatment as in dialysis itself. Dr Scribner's pioneering clinic in Seattle used a panel of laymen

and doctors who used such criteria as a patient's youthfulness and freedom from disease in other parts of the body.

Squeamishness at the difficulty of such choices (made day in day out by doctors and administrators in all specialisms) betrays an ignorance of how the health service works. The National Health Service has since its inception played a counterpoint between the lofty and universal ideals of doctors and nurses (widely shared by the public) and the reality of rationing by means of waiting lists. Queues for renal dialysis are different from queues for prostate gland operations and hip replacements only because of the acuteness of the condition.

Those queues will persist. The number of patients who might benefit from dialysis will increase as the general population ages. Kidney treatments, as they have become available to older patients, have preserved a part of the population for the onset of unrelated disease and consequently raised "demand" for other health facilities.

What doctors are owed both by the public and their colleagues in the administration of the NHS is some assistance with the inevitably difficult daily decisions they have to make. Not

to treat may, sometimes, be kinder and wiser. But doctors alone cannot apportion life chances between old and young sick and less sick. The NHS needs a better system for targeting between the regions in such areas as dialysis - some of the disparities visible at present are indefensible. Doctors deserve better than the moral panic which recently accompanied discussion of organ transplants.

Professor Cameron and other unnamed specialists have talked about refusing to sign certificates in the case of deaths of patients too far down the queue to have obtained treatment for kidney failure. The action would not only be likely to be illegal, as the British Medical Association says, but lacking both in logic and concern for orderly medical administration. It would be a dramatic gesture of the same kind as the court action recently talked of by the Royal College of Nursing as it dons its new rather unattractive activist clothes. Such gestures would not further the cause of medicine, nor that of the NHS. The argument, on one side, is about finding the wherewithal for an expensive service within which need will never be satisfied; on the other it is about that ultimate question - who should survive - which doctors can never escape but should never answer alone.

Parkinson's case and The Times

From Mrs E. SOWELS
Sir, It was really necessary for *The Times* to join the ranks of the muckraking gutter press?

You have finally bounded him out. All that remains now is to turn her into a martyred heroine! For days you have bored your readers with this irrelevant affair between two consenting adults.

We have lost an able minister and have become the laughing stock of Europe with our hypocritical, outdated and holier than thou attitudes.

Meanwhile there is a murder in this country almost weekly, very often of children. I suggest you give that a little more attention and space in your paper in future.

Yours sincerely,
E. SOWELS,
39 School Lane,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire,
October 15.

From Dr Ian Bradley
Sir, Am I alone in finding the role of *The Times* not the least distressing aspect of this whole sorry affair? Your Political Editor says in his report this morning (October 15) that both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Parkinson misjudged the country's tolerance of private failings in public life. Yet it was not any public outcry which forced Mr Parkinson's resignation, but rather the spitting of Miss Keays's statement over most of the front page of Friday's *Times*. On the evidence of the BBC *Newsnight* poll, at least, the public took a more detached and, dare I say, a more mature and less prurient view of the affair.

You say in your leading article today (October 15) that "the personal scars of this tragedy are of no public concern". How much, I agree, but why, in that case, do you devote much of the first and third pages of this morning's paper to photographs showing the strain and anguish of those principally involved and to hour-by-hour accounts of their movements at a time when surely they are entitled to a little peace and quiet?

I have to say that at least one loyal reader, and former member of *The Times* staff, has been saddened by this descent into the journalism of the gutter.

Yours,
IAN BRADLEY,
Cranleigh School,
Cranleigh,
Surrey,
October 15.

From Sir Henry Lushington
Sir, Your front page article was disgraceful.

I could have read all that in the gutter press.
Yours etc,
H. LUSHINGTON,
Earlswood,
Epsom Road,
Crowthorne,
Berkshire,
October 14.

S Africa's constitution

From Professor Kenneth Kirkwood
Sir, Mr Harry Oppenheimer's reasoned declaration (overseas news, October 12) of his opposition to the South African Government's constitutional proposals, soon to be determined by referendum, is greatly to be welcomed. He, personally, has consistently given enlightened leadership of a kind South Africa sorely needs, not only over large public issues, but also in connection with the rights of individuals.

Mr Oppenheimer, like the late Sir Robert Birtley, and J. H. Hofmeyr, Smuts's Deputy Prime Minister, has never shirked stating fundamental principles of human rights and public policy.

The difficulties confronting South Africans of all backgrounds are immense, but nothing is to be gained by further alienation of the African peoples who, from before the turn of the present century, have produced remarkable men capable of playing their full part in Parliament and other spheres of life.

Yours truly,
KENNETH KIRKWOOD,
St Antony's College,
Oxford, OX2 0JG,
October 12.

Greenham Common

From Mrs J. Bazley
Sir, Lord Chalfont's cheap jibe (October 10) at the "unsavoury components" at Greenham Common is unworthy of a man of his distinction. No doubt he finds the politics of these women distasteful, but the physical conditions at the camp are dictated by a series of petty restrictions imposed by the Newbury District Council, and to endure these discomforts requires a degree of moral courage beyond the experience of most of us.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA BAZLEY,
43 Wilton Grove, SW19,
October 11.

Nicaraguan censorship

From the Ambassador of Nicaragua
Sir, With reference to the article (October 14) "How Managua pulls the teeth of a paper tiger" by Christopher Thomas, I should like to shed a little light on the question of *La Prensa* in Nicaragua.

First, there is no state of siege in Nicaragua, but a state of emergency. This state of emergency enables us to live the best we can; given the present circumstances of aggression and invasion which we Nicaraguans are suffering. This is as a result of Mr Reagan's efforts to radicalise the revolution.

Secondly, it is true that censorship exists - and it is the product of all the economic, political and military aggression against Nicaragua. Great

Father and mother of a church clash

From Professor Roger Sharrock
Sir, The objections of some of your correspondents to "the exclusive use of masculine language to address God" (the phrase of Ms Pauline Fielding and Mr Peter West in their letter of October 13), as being detrimental to women, seems both to obscure the central tenet of the Christian religion and to brush aside the extreme honour it pays to the female sex.

According to that tenet, the Mother of God was a woman; he had no human father. Where is "lopsidedness" there? Or is it being suggested that we should perform a theological somersault and believe in a female divinity who was impregnated by a human male? I should have thought this would be more detrimental to the feelings of women (and men) than masculine pronouns in the liturgy.

Christian feminists who claim recognition of a feminine share in the divine process seem to ignore that it is there already and remarkably in the story of the Incarnation. As for pronouns, at least they cannot object to persons: "Three persons, one God."

Yours truly,
ROGER SHARROCK,
12 Plough Lane,
Purley,
Surrey,
October 15.

From Canon Martin Thornton

Sir, I have had the privilege of reviewing the late Urban Holmes's last book, a magnificent study of contemporary spirituality somewhat marred by the irritating repetition of "he or she", "his or hers". The book has much to say in support of the feminist cause, but does this ugly English really help?

If suitable unisex words can be found or invented, well and good, but the ultimate answer is a deeper recognition that all talk about God is symbolic and analogical.

The trouble with "Father" is that it is not symbolic enough, since it immediately suggests something like Victorian paternalism. It appears to be less offensive to refer to Jesus Christ as "the Lord" because we do not immediately think of him as a Hebrew nobleman.

The theme of the motherhood of God is, of course, firmly embedded in the Christian tradition, but "Mother" is always interpreted as a symbol. The real need is a deeper conception of the mystery of God, whatever he is called - or she? - than that of an old gentleman sitting on a cloud.

Sincerely,
MARTIN THORNTON,
21 Old Bridge Street,
Truro,
Cornwall,
October 13.

From the Reverend B. C. Harrison
Sir, Mistress Fielding and Master West seem to suggest (October 13) that God is feminine. Mistress

Law of the Sea Treaty

From Dr A. F. Trotman-Dickenson
Sir, Professor Denman's proposal (October 5) that a chair should be established at the London School of Economics for the academic study and teaching of planning and management of the seabed gives the impression that this is a new initiative in a subject of study hitherto neglected.

Most informed professionals would regard the proposed concentration on the seabed as a weakness. The seabed is only part of the larger sea space and sensible seabed planning must be part of an overall plan for the potentially conflicting uses of the seabed, the water column and the air space above.

A better case exists for the development of the more broadly based study concerned with the management and resources of both the sea and the seabed, of the kind pioneered by the Centre for Marine Law and Policy in the University of Wales, Institute of Science and Technology (Uwist).

The centre was established in 1975 precisely because of the need for research and postgraduate

Rate-fixing

From Mr A. H. C. Shaw

Sir, The Government has made it clear that it can find no satisfactory alternative to the existing rates system for financing local government. However it seems to want to impose more and more central controls to prevent spendthrift councils from raising higher rates each year, thus removing the "local" content from all these bodies.

The biggest incentive at present for these councils to ignore central Government's wishes is that, being virtually entirely based in industrialized areas, for each pound raised from domestic rates, a higher amount comes from the industrial rate. This illustrates the undemocratic nature of the rates.

If we are to accept retention of the rates system, and I do accept it is unfair in many ways, then might I

Britain practised censorship during the Second World War and I myself was witness to the censorship applied during the Malvinas war. Nicaragua is living in a state of war. The whole world asks how much longer we can put up with American aggression.

Thirdly, *La Prensa* is the paper with the highest circulation out of the three Nicaraguan newspapers. The true ideological heir of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Martyr of Civil Liberties, is in fact his brother, who is Editor of the *Nuevo Diario*. He was forced to leave *La Prensa* and Chamorro's son, Pedro, has converted *La Prensa* into an instrument whose columns could be bought with the purpose of destabilising the Government and the process.

The other brother of Pedro

French way with British cheeses

From Lady Henderson
Sir, Mr Tatum writes (October 15) about the failings of British cheese in France. A few years ago, when my husband was Ambassador in Paris, we held a promotion of British cheeses in the Embassy. The state dining room, with its gift centre-piece, was used to show off our various cheeses.

France's leading "cheese-tasters" were invited for cheese and port. They were most complimentary and particularly liked the Sage Derby, the Blue Cheshire and the Stilton.

Although the Milk Marketing Board followed up our presentation, they have found great difficulty in changing French taste. The French do not particularly like a hard cheese and do not necessarily want one that will keep. They prefer a soft cheese that is just right on the day they wish to eat it.

They also value their personal relationship with their cheese merchant who, after much pinching and discussion, will single out the very best cheese.

Marks and Spencer's in Paris sell British cheeses and the French buy Stilton in specialized shops in Paris. If we hope to establish a cheese entente I think it will have to be based on Stilton.

Yours faithfully,
MARY HENDERSON,
6 Fairholt Street, SW7,
October 17.

GLC waste disposal

From Mr Simon Turney
Sir, The suggestion in David Walker's article (October 10) from Mr Patrick Jenkin that London's rubbish could be burnt in a revamped Battersea power station is but one of the poorly researched ideas that the Government have just put out in their White Paper, *Streamlining the Cities*.

This kind of inaccurate generality is not only misleading, it is professionally incompetent. The GLC has already looked in depth at Battersea power station. It would cost a minimum of £20m to put it in any kind of working order. None of the obsolete equipment is suitable.

The lead has been stolen from the roof. Incineration in an area closely packed with housing would be far from popular with the local residents. The building contains hundreds of tons of asbestos.

The GLC is already researching other sites for incineration. The GLC is in the lead in Europe in innovation for waste disposal, it runs a modern incinerator at Edmonton which brings in a revenue of £3.5m per annum from the sale of electricity. It has a joint company with the National Coal Board for the reclamation of methane gas from its landfill site at Aveley, which is now providing cheap power to a local factory and a profitable return on investment to the partners. It leads the country in the recycling of glass, which is sold to glass companies as cullet and saves the ratepayers £7 a tonne on disposal costs.

The suggestion in the Government White Paper that the GLC's role in waste disposal, with its high degree of technical innovation and leadership, could be satisfactorily carried out by 33 individual boroughs is, frankly, comic, and if Mr Jenkin has taken the trouble to find out the facts in advance he would not be putting forward such silly proposals in the White Paper.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON TURNER, Chairman,
Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee,
Greater London Council,
County Hall, SE1,
October 11.

The doves of war

From Professor Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper

Sir, Considerable support for the contentions made in your editorial (October 8) can be found in the use of carrier pigeons as a method of operational and intelligence communications in the last war.

The carrier pigeons in their baskets were an important part of the personnel and equipment of RAF flying boats, Coastal Command aircraft and aircraft on special assignments. These birds, to be found at Stanmore, Northolt and other places, were on occasions entrusted to the care of the military.

Some evidence of the importance of these birds in wartime can be gleaned from an incident in the history of military law that brought unwelcome fame upon a certain guardsman entrusted with their care and dietary arrangements at a particular RAF installation.

He found himself charged with the following military offence: When on active service conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he, at, on, or in disregard of his duty, improperly fed certain carrier pigeons entrusted to his care to an extent that the said pigeons could not be used for operational requirements.

The details of this enormity were that the guardsman, overcome by his affection for the pigeons and succumbing to their blandishments, overrode their dietary needs, in clear contravention of the instructions printed on the packets of pigeon food, which of course was public property.

He had given the pigeons such an enormous feast that at the moment when they were called to their duties they proved incapable of any other activity than deep, blissful, post-prandial sleep.

For this enormity the heinous but tender-hearted guardsman received, in due course, a punishment. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. I. A. D. DRAPER,
16 Southover High Street,
Lewes,
Sussex,
October 8.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-537 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 678.2 up 0.6
FT 100: 81.23 down 0.03
FT All Share: 426.94 up 0.28
Bergains: 21.704
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 93.23 up 0.14
New York: Dow Jones
Average: 1263.31 down 5.39
Teleview: Miltel Dow Jones
Index: 9,349.06 down 71.34
Hongkong: Hang Seng
Index: 790.04 up 18.49
Amsterdam: 150.7 up 0.3
Sydney: AO Index: 682.1
down 5.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index: 989.70 up 7.90
Brussels: General Index
127.10 down 0.02
Paris: CAC Index: 141.4
down 0.1
Zurich: SICA General Index
291.4 unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5005 down 10pts
Index 83.3m down 0.3
DM 3.88 down 0.03
FF 11.8550 down 0.0875
Yen 348.50 down 1.50
Dollar
Index 125.6 down 0.3
DM 2.5860
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.5020
Dollar DM 2.5775
INTERNATIONAL
ECU20: 580322
SDR20: 707506

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9
3 month interbank 9½-9¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9¾
3 month DM 5½-5¾
3 month FF 14½-14¾
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 104½-104¾
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period September 7, to
October 4, 1983 inclusive:
9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$396.75 pm \$397.25
close \$397 (\$264.25)
New York latest: \$398.10
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$408.50-410 (\$272-273)
Sovereigns (new):
\$83.25-84.25 (\$52-52.75)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim: Bankers' Investment
Trust, British Home
Stores, City of Oxford
Investment Trust, Duport,
John Fokkes Hefo, Hawker Siddeley,
Jessel, Toybee and Gillet,
Marshall's Universal, Securities
Trust of Scotland, Smith St
Aubyn, Sun Life Assurance
Society, Telephone Rentals,
TR North America Investment
Trust, Finales: Eleco Holdings,
Grosvenor Group, Kalamazoo,
RP Martin, Medminster, Quest
Automation, Television South
West Holdings.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

F & C Eurotrust, 1 Lawrence
Pountney Hill, EGA (2.30).
United Real Property Trust,
Europa Hotel, Grosvenor
Square, W1 (noon). Christie-
Tyler, Brynmynny, Bridgend,
Mid Glamorgan (noon).

NOTEBOOK

Brooke Bond, the big groceries,
timber and plantation group
whose products include PG
Tips and Oxo, broke a run of
poor profits yesterday by
announcing that pretax earnings
had risen from £35.3m to
£48.2m for the year to the end
of June. Page 16

● The financial affairs of
Sotbeby's, the London-based
auction house, will soon dis-
appear from public view when
the group passes into private
ownership. Mr Alfred Taub-
man, the American property
multi-millionaire yesterday
declared that he and concert
parties either owned or had
acceptances to nearly 93 per
cent of the group's shares.

● London Shop Property
Trust is raising £9.35m by an
underwritten rights issue of 9
per cent convertible unsecured
loan stock.

● BICC, the cables group, is to
issue up to \$70m (£47m) of
commercial paper in the United
States to help meet its inter-
national working capital re-
quirements.

European bankers given details of request for new loans

Brazil will clear its trade deficit in five years, says bank chief

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

In an attempt to win support from European bankers for Brazil's multi-million dollar rescue plan, central bank president, yesterday predicted that Brazil will have eliminated its current account deficit by 1988.

He also gave assurances that the Brazilian government would do all it could to gain approval for a tough new wage law which is crucial if the International Monetary Fund is to resume lending to Brazil.

At a meeting in London of about 200 European bankers, Senhor Pastore gave details of Brazil's request for \$6.5 billion of new loans, a rescheduling of about \$5 billion of 1984 maturities and the need for trade and interbank facilities of \$10 billion and \$6 billion respectively.

Members of the Brazilian bank advisory committee, Mr Anthony Lechin, director of the Bank of England and Mr William Dale, deputy managing director of the IMF also addressed bankers.



Dale (left) and Pastore in London yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

At a press conference afterwards Mr Dale said that IMF projections supported the feasibility of Brazil's current account forecast. The current account deficit is expected to be \$6.9 billion this year.



Although reports from Brazil have suggested Brazil is seeking to modify the new wage law which restricts pay increases to 80 per cent of the inflation rate, Mr Dale said: "I have not heard of any changes."

Senhor Pastore said no changes were planned to the wage bill but fiscal measures to complement it were under discussion. Senhor Pastore said the reaction of bankers after yesterday's three-hour meeting was positive.

However, one banker said yesterday: "There is a grudging acceptance that this is probably the best solution for the time being. But very few people believe that this is enough money to carry them through to the end of next year."

Banks have been asked to agree to the package by November 10. Senhor Pastore said Brazil wanted up to \$3 billion of the new \$6.5 billion loan to be released before the end of this year.

● Four countries have suspended importing from Brazil, as a reprisal against increasing restrictions of their imports, Patrick Knight writes from Sao Paulo. Meanwhile, several Brazilian industries are running out of essential imported parts and raw materials.

Colombia, Ecuador, Senegal and Israel, which have announced a boycott, were last year responsible for exports totalling \$400m (£266m), 2 per cent of the total.

To generate the \$6.5 billion trade surplus demanded by Brazil's creditors and the IMF more goods are having to be exported and less consumed at home.

Congressmen 'set to block IMF bill'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

A group of populist American Congressmen, angered by the role of commercial banks in spawning the present debt crisis, indicated yesterday that as many as 200 House members will vote against a Bill authorizing funds for the International Monetary Fund.

Although the Reagan Administration said last week it has succeeded in lessening opposition to the Bill, the congressional coalition indicated it will try to extract a heavy price for its support of the legislation, scheduled for action in the next few weeks.

Mr Byron Dorgan, a Democrat from North Dakota, said his latest count revealed that more than 200 Congressmen will again vote against the \$8.4 billion (\$5.6 billion) increase for the IMF unless something is done to restrict the international lending activities of banks.

He said: "The majority of us supports the IMF. We understand that more funds will ultimately be necessary to solve the debt crisis. But we do hand over the \$8.4 billion to the IMF now, without addressing the banks' lending policies that got us into this mess."

Mr Dorgan is one of the leaders of a group of House members representing both the far Right and Left factions of their parties who oppose the IMF legislation on grounds that it imposes a large burden on American taxpayers and is little more than a bail-out for international banks.

Congress, which returned yesterday from a week's holiday, is expected to take up the deadlocked IMF legislation this week.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, predicted last week that the Bill will be pushed through a reluctant Congress by the November 30 deadline set by IMF when it negotiated the increased member nation quotas.

Administration officials, including President Reagan, have been lobbying heavily to break the deadlock on the Bill which is encumbered by a series of politically motivated amendments which have prevented its passage. House and Senate members are expected to meet this week to attempt to resolve their sharp differences.

● Mrs Thatcher's former economic adviser, Sir Alan Walters, spoke yesterday against an increase in IMF quotas to solve the Third World debt problem. Some short-term lending to debt crisis countries was justified, he said, but quotas meant a permanent increase in world liquidity and this would be "a grave error".

The sale also includes subsidiaries in Argentina, Spain and Japan and three wholly-owned subsidiaries which handle sales and marketing outside the US.

\$600m plan for sale of Conoco assets

Wilmington, Delaware, (Reuter) - An investment group has agreed tentatively to buy assets of Du Pont's Conoco chemicals arm for about \$600m (\$400m), in cash.

The group was organized by E F Hutton Group and Mr Gordon Cain, a former Conoco vice-president. Others taking part include members of Conoco's present management.

A new company, Vista chemical, will be formed from Conoco's commodity chemical business.

It is expected, for financial reporting purposes, that no gain or loss will be recognized on the sale by Du Pont, the company said. The proceeds, it said, will be used for debt reduction among other purposes.

A definitive agreement is expected by the end of this year. Du Pont said that the agreement includes Conoco plants at Lake Charles, Louisiana, which makes ethylene, methanol, synthetic alcohols, alumina, ethoxylates, vinyl chloride monomer and detergent alkylates.

The sale also includes subsidiaries in Argentina, Spain and Japan and three wholly-owned subsidiaries which handle sales and marketing outside the US.

Stockholders hit at recovery claim

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Ministerial belief that Britain's economic recovery has begun is simply "a figment of the government's political ego", according to the leaders of the industry which buys and sells much of the nation's steel.

Mr Michael Kent, president of the National Association of Steel Stockholders, said yesterday: "The Government tends to think that a new supermarket or micro-processor factory is the be-all and end-all."

But, he said, stockholders in the Midlands and the North were not seeing much of a recovery in the industries which used their products. The car industry had had a good summer, but many steel-using industries were not seeing it in any greater quantities and many companies were going out of business.

The NASS, whose members account for about 85 per cent of

the steel shifted by the country's stockholders, believes that the British Steel Corporation has become one of the most efficient producers in the world and has vastly improved its delivery and quality, but remains hampered by low economic activity.

Mr Kent, speaking the day after official figures showed that September was a record month for retail spending, called for greater government expenditure on infrastructure projects and less concentration on selling BSC to the private sector. "There are more things than privatization. Let us get the economy going."

Meanwhile, BSC has won a £6m contract to supply the bulk of the steel plate to be used in the production platform for the Ula oil and gas field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea.

City Editor's Comment

Lunchtime logic for merchant bankers

The City's merchant banks are agitated as never before about how best to exploit the opportunities presented by the changes now under way at the Stock Exchange.

Conventional wisdom has it that the big banks will combine with the big brokers, when the rules are changed to allow such mergers, and the combination of these resources will create a pool of expertise sufficient to rival the New York-based investment banking powers like Salomon Brothers and Goldman Sachs.

But conventional wisdom once again seems to be wrong. More and more the talk at merchant banking lunch tables is turning against buying into a broker, or merging with one, because the banks feel they can develop their own much more cost-efficient solutions.

Those banks which have investment departments where they manage funds either in the form of unit trusts or as private client portfolios are coming rapidly to the conclusion that brokers have little to offer them that they cannot do for themselves.

Rather than take on an entire broking partnership, they feel it would be a lot more cost efficient to buy in one or two senior partners from an existing firm, and give them a small dealing staff and channel the firms' portfolio trading through them.

True, they would cut themselves off from the research provided by the big brokers, but most of these big fund managers carry out their own research anyway, and even if they do not, it would be a simple matter once again for them to hire a few of the best analysts.

The key question for the merchant banks, therefore, is less the debate about minimum commissions, but when the rules of the Stock Exchange are going to be relaxed sufficiently for them to become members, because obviously until they can clear this hurdle there is no point in their having dealing capacity in house.

There are secondary questions, too, about whether they want to get involved in the stock market at all, as opposed to concentrating on the many other international, more flexible and faster growing areas of financial services.

But the real focus of the debate is beginning to turn on membership and in particular the role of the appeals committee, a new body which will not be controlled by members of the Stock Exchange.

Hard times for USM

The Unlisted Securities Market has come unstuck twice in four days, just when it looked as if it would clear its third birthday with yet another year of growth untarnished by disasters.

Last Friday one of this year's launches, Chemical Methods Associates, plunged so far into losses that the issuing house has decided to give shareholders their money back.

Then on Monday, Thames Investment and Securities, one of the first to join the market back in 1980, reported losses of nearly £5m, and a boardroom shakeup and hive-off which raises almost as many questions as it answers, and brings back to prominence one of those best-known names from the fringe banking crisis, Mr Tom Whyte, formerly of Triumph Investment Trust.

The Stock Exchange and the Bank of England have both seen fit in recent months to issue warnings about the over valuation and risk inherent in many USM issues.

Recent events show how timely those warnings were



Brooke Bond Group
Year to 30th June 1983

Highlights of the Year

* Operating profit	+	12%
* UK operating profit	+	31%
* Profit before tax	+	37%
* Earnings per share	+	49%
* Dividend	+	5%

	1983	1982
Operating profit	£m 63.6	£m 56.8
Profit before tax	48.2	35.3
Earnings	24.2	16.2

Extract from the Chairman's Statement to be posted to shareholders on 7th November 1983:-

"The major highlight is clearly the improvement in our financial performance. This is not in my opinion an unsustainable improvement and reflects the point that 1983 marked a watershed in the group's fortunes. The process of rationalisation has now nearly been completed. We have identified our core businesses - branded grocery products, timber products and plantations for each of which we have developed a clear strategy and development plan. If interest rates reduce and the UK in particular continues to emerge from the long period of recession I can foresee continued improvement in the group's performance."

The directors recommend a final dividend of 2.85p per share. This, together with the interim dividend of 1.25p per share declared in March will make a total net dividend of 4.1p per share. This is an increase of 5% on the rate paid in the previous year and is payable on the same share capital.

If you wish to have a copy of the 1983 Annual Report, please complete the coupon and return to:
The Secretary,
Brooke Bond Group plc,
Thames House, Queen Street Place,
London EC4R 1DH.

Name.....

Address.....



INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

Chase Manhattan Limited: Mr Ian Vogt will be manager of fixed rate bond trading, from next Monday. The company is the London-based merchant banking subsidiary of the Chase Manhattan Capital Markets Group.

Expansion must come either from increasing market share – for example by pushing up instant coffee from 5 per cent to 8 or 10 per cent of the £300m British market – or from acquisition. With acquisitions, the group depends chiefly on other companies, such as Imperial Tobacco, deciding to sell businesses.

It is small wonder that the directors of Istock Johnsen, the Leicester brick-maker, turned down an apparently generous £52m offer from London Brick a couple of months ago.

However, a large proportion of the cash is covered by Export Credit Guarantee Department

full year. So pre-tax profits between £48 to £50m look likely, compared with last year's £44.4m.

	Oct 17	Oct 18	
AMP Inc.	17%	17%	Pol Pens Con
AMP			Part

Oct 17	Oct 14		Oct 17	Oct 14
2%	2%	Pub Ser M & Gas	24%	24%
68%	68%	Payroll	47%	47%

	Oct 17	Oct 14	
AMP Inc	17%	17%	Est Pers Com
AMP			Prod

STREET			Oct 17	Oct 14
74	80%	Pub Ser R3 & Gas	26%	26%
		Barbours	47%	47%

Net dividend 0.6p

Brook St Bureau
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax loss £130,000 (£633,000)
Loss per share 1.27p (6.13p)
Turnover £7m (£7.3m)
Net interim dividend None (same)

Ramus Holdings
Year to 4.7.83
Pretax profit £621,000 (£325,000)
Turnover £19.2m (£13.6m)
Net dividend 5p (same)

Whittington International

Net dividend 1.8p (same))

More O'Ferrall
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £1m (£1.1m)
Stated earnings 2.7p (2.8p)
Turnover £8.7m (£7.3m)
Net interim dividend 0.9p (0.88p)

Edith
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £109,000 (£3,000)
Stated earnings 0.31p (0.02p)
Turnover £254,000 (£215,000)

● **Tate and Lyle:** The company is bidding for Alcantara Sociedade De Empreendimentos Açucareiros, which refines sugar in Portugal. The cost to the company of acquiring the 62 per cent of the shares which are held by non-residents of Portugal, will be £1.5m.

Temp. Quiet.	
COCOA	
Dec	1428-27
Mar	1433-22
May	1426-16
July	1460-69
Sec	1472-70
Dec	1488-65
Mar	1505-65
Vol:	3157
Temp. Steady	
COFFEE	
Nov	1910-1906
Jan	1899-1891
Mar	1795-1798

20% Cash	580.00-580.00
Cash	593.50-594.00
Three months	3980
T/O:	
Tone: Bladder	
SILVER	
Cash	677.0-678.0
Three months	693.0-694.0
T/O:	49
Tone: Oriel	
ALLUMINUM	
Cash	1069.00-1069.00
Three months	1082.00-1088.00

Three months	1087.00-1088.00
1/0c	2600
Three Steadier.	
WICKS	
Cash	3170-3175
Three months	3245-3250
1/0c	222
Time: Steadier.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET	
In US \$ per oz.	
Oct	395.00-401.00
Dec	401.00-401.30
Feb	402.50-403.00

(UNAUDITED)

Results and Prospects

The Plantation Division's profits for the half year are affected by Harrison's Malaysian Plantations Berhad and certain other companies now being dealt with as related companies; against this there is a material benefit to Finance arising from income on the proceeds of the sale in the second half of last year of part of the Group's plantation interests. Crops suffered from the effect of a prolonged drought and prices were depressed for most commodities in the early months. Crops are now higher; markets have since improved considerably and current prices augur well for better results in the second half of the year.

economies made in the previous year and also to the general improvement in trading activity. This better trading environment seems likely to be maintained in the second half of the year.

The performance of Timber and Building Supplies Division must be measured against a subnormal figure in the first half of 1982, when profits suffered from the severe winter of 1981/82. The 1983 figures, however, which are being maintained, represent a material increase in trading levels and profitability.

The higher profits achieved by the Chemical and Industrial Division are attributable partly to the operating

Duller conditions prevail in a number of overseas markets, hence the somewhat lower figures of General Trading Division, but for the Group overall, we expect a satisfactory outcome for the year as a whole.

Interim Dividend 8p per Ordinary share

Principal Activities

	Six months to 30th June £'000	Six months to 30th June £'000	Year to 31st December £'000
Plantations	2,812	10,391	21,405
Chemicals and Industrial	5,513	3,085	5,379
Timber and Building Supplies	5,944	2,839	7,844
General Trading	2,326	2,734	5,845
Finance	4,612	248	3,926
Property disposals	199	1,993	10,068
Operating profit	21,406	21,290	54,467
Related companies	3,872	2,109	4,626
Group profit before interest and taxation	25,278	23,399	59,093

NOTES

1. Included in the comparative figures for the six months to 30th June 1982 are the results of Harrison's Malaysian Estates P.L.C. ("HME") and certain other plantation companies as subsidiaries. Under the Scheme of Arrangement referred to in the Directors' Report for 1982 the Group disposed of a 50.5% interest in HME on 30th September 1982 retaining meantime a 30.3% interest in HME's successor company, Harrison's Malaysian Plantations Berhad ("HMPB") and received cash of approximately £146 million. In the six months to 30th June 1983 the Group's share of the results of HMPB is included with related companies.

2. The comparative figures for the year ended 31st December 1982 are not extract from the full accounts for that year which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD PLC, 1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON EC3R 5AB.

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	110%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%



* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 5½%; £10,000 up to £20,000, 6½%; £20,000 and over, 7½%.

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London and Northern Group PLC

 **Interim Results**
Half-year to 30th June 1983 

* Pre-tax profits for half year increased to £4.1m (1982 £3.5m) including £232,000 from United Medical Enterprises Limited, which joined the Group on 23rd Jan 1983 and which earned a further £5.05m prior to acquisition.

* The acquisition of United Medical Enterprises Limited and the attendant rights issue have been completed, broadening and strengthening the Group's capital structure and its trading activities.

* Higher interim dividend of 1.7p per share (1982:1.5p), on capital increased by recent rights issue. Final (2.5p) to be at least maintained.

* Pre-tax profits for the charged Group for the second half forecast to show an increase over the total first half profits earned by all constituent companies of the Group, including United Medical Enterprises Limited.

Further information obtainable from The Secretary,
London & Northern Group PLC, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 0JF
Telephone: 01-836 9261

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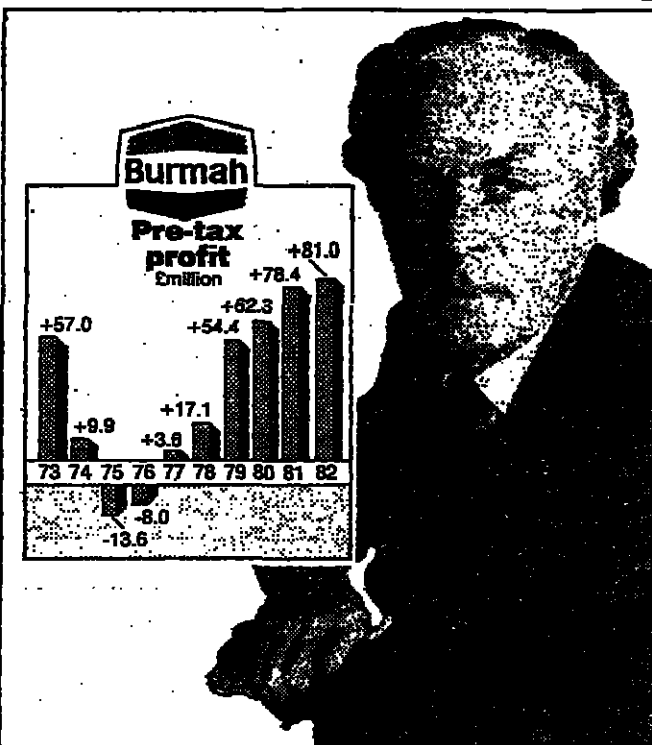
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NSW, Australia**

Susan Bevan reports on the oil company's struggle to overcome its debt legacy

Burmah still waiting for its star to rise again



Maltby: Steering a wounded group into a vigorous future

The catastrophe which nearly finished off Burmah Oil at Christmas 1974, seemed to strike like a bolt from the blue. The recovery from it has been long and slow. Even nine years later the chairman, Mr John Maltby, warns the company's critics that they must go on being patient.

There is a period, after you have gone through a recovery programme of this magnitude, of what you might call suspended faith. People want to see change and improvement and they want to see it in short order, but these things take a great deal longer than the management thinks," he says.

In many ways the recovery has been remarkable. Burmah, then one of Britain's biggest companies and one of the oldest oil companies in the world, was brought to its knees by its massive debts and the equally massive problems of its tanker fleet. It only survived at the cost of a fire sale of £865m of its cheapest assets.

Yet the rump of the company has steadily turned round from pre-tax losses of £13.6m in 1975 to profits of £81m in 1982 on total funds employed: slashed from £870m in the 1974 balance sheet to £632m at the end of last year, after all the inflation in between.

However, net income, after hefty tax charges and exceptional losses which continue to plague the company, has been erratic and last year saw only £8.9m at the attributable level - £5m too little to cover the dividend.

This year could be worse, with trading profits depressed by the recessionary conditions at home and abroad and a big, exceptional debit to come from the cancellation of more of the disastrous tanker charter.

Critics look ahead to the inevitable slow-down in contributions from Burmah's big profit earner - its 8.3 per cent stake in the Thistle oilfield. With other businesses like Castrol, Quinton Hazell and Halfords looking unexciting, they query where the growth is going to come from.

Mr Maltby is resigned. He says of this judgment: "I wouldn't use the word harsh. I might suggest an element of misunderstanding - of how long it takes to effect change."

Taking over the chairman's seat last summer, he has a hard act to follow. His predecessor, Sir Alastair Down, justifiably retired to widespread praise for the way he had hauled Burmah out of the wreckage. Mr Maltby's job is to steer a company that still suffers many wounds from old wounds, into a vigorous future.

One debilitating legacy from the past remains Burmah's fleet of tankers - now down from 42 at the time of the crash to only seven, but still making losses. These amounted to £5m last year and seem likely to stretch well into the future with one broker estimating off-balance sheet commitments of some £76m on charter arrangements over the years 1988, and a tanker market that is, as Mr Maltby glumly observes, "always going to improve in two years time."

Fortunately the fleet of eight liquid natural gas carriers on long-term contract between Indonesia and Japan remains profitable and means the shipping division makes reasonable profits.

It was the pell-mell race into shipping which was the immediate cause of Burmah's downfall when the charter market went through the floor in 1974 and Burmah Oil Tankers made a £3m loss.

This exacerbated deeper problems. The company was long liked by its shareholders for its tax status as more of an investment company than an operator. Its 23 per cent stake in BP and 5 per cent of Shell constituted its major assets.

In the early 1960s Burmah's old management started a vigorous programme of acquisitions, gearing up to those apparently rock-solid assets. The takeover trail which took in Castrol, Halfords and Quinton Hazell culminated in 1974 with the purchase of Signal Oil of the US for \$480m (£320m), necessitating borrowings of £282m in North America and on the Eurocurrency market.

In 1974 the combination of the international oil crisis and the collapse of the London stock market amid the property debate and rising inflation, sent oil shares into a tail spin. At the start of the year Burmah's BP stake was worth £443m. By the end it had tumbled to £180m thereby threatening the asset related terms of the US loans.

In apparent ignorance of the disasters looming on the profits front as well, the loan terms were renegotiated to relate to profitability. But Burmah was heading for a profits collapse from a pre-tax figure of £56.9m in 1983 to £9.88m in 1974.

thanks to the tanker problems, and the new conditions could not be met. The fall in asset backing also meant technical default on £54m of unsecured loan stock.

There were other problems too. Other parts of the business were doing particularly well and total borrowings were a mighty £426m. Ironically, Burmah had at last fulfilled its dream of becoming a big oil operator in its own right with its 30 per cent stake in the new-found North Sea Ninian field and the 19.5 per cent stake in Thistle purchased with Signal. The problem was, how, in its present plight, could it finance the development.

The Bank of England stepped in to guarantee borrowings in return for which Burmah pledged its BP stake, giving the Bank an option to buy which it later took up at bargain basement prices. That provoked bitter but ultimately fruitless litigation in future years. Under Bank orders, the new management had to realize what assets it could get the debts quickly under control.

In the next 18 months the

North American oil and gas interests, mostly purchased with Signal, had to go, along with Great Plains Development of Canada, Edwin Cooper, the US company making chemical additives for lubricating oil, Woodside Burmah and finally, the Government bought the Ninian field stake along with 65 per cent of the holding in Thistle.

Mr Maltby surveyed the wreck from a safe distance. At the time he was building up a successful chemical, transport and storage business, Panoscan. He had many friends in Burmah, having previously held senior posts in BP, but he says: "It was remarkable how little interest one took in it. It was just interesting reading on the train."

Now more intimately involved, he traces the roots of the disaster to well before the dark days of 1974. "We got ourselves totally unnecessarily involved in a commodity market, because that is what shipping is, and commodity markets are notoriously fickle. We got 'caught by cocoa' on a massive scale."

Apart from this, he said, Burmah had bought a number of big businesses which were apparently profitable and failed to appreciate they had cash commitments for years into the future. "We failed to appreciate how many more millions had to be pumped in - the difference between cash flow and profits," he said.

"The rate of acquisitions was too high for digestion and consolidation and for good management practices to be introduced."

These fundamental problems, he believes, hung over what was left of Burmah long after the immediate crisis was over and, to some extent, hang over it still.

"An inheritance of the disaster is the structure of the group in its component parts. While there was a very clear rationale for the way the Burmah Group was built up before 1973, after the massive excisions you have to realize that what is left does not have the same cohesion and coherence."

The other major hangover from the crash is Burmah's persisting debt burden, with net debt of £205m in the balance sheet at the end of last year representing 59 per cent of shareholders funds.

Mr Maltby reckons that about £100m of this represents the difference between the amounts received from the sale of the tanker fleet and the debt raised to finance it. "This is a serious impediment to further development," he said.

It is, he says, the remaining businesses have had to be reined back from expansion and change. Quinton Hazell for example, "should have been expanded further overseas and developed sooner into the original equipment business which it is only doing now. This has been delayed for several years."

Burmah is trying to sell the car components group because Mr Maltby says, it needs and deserves long-term substantial investment to meet the challenge of the European car and this is a strain on Burmah's resources.

The same problems have affected smaller elements of the business and even Castrol, the jewel in the corporate crown, has not been immune.

"Over the four years 1975-1979 Castrol would have been viewed, and viewed itself, as the classic cash cow. It contributed mightily to the coffers. Come 1979 it had to start to carve itself a new future which meant a huge management and philosophical change. It has succeeded, though. The management is nothing if not adaptable."

"If it hadn't been for the crisis we would still have faced problems, but not of the same order of magnitude. The group would have been dominated by the oil production and temporary lapses by relatively modest parts of the group could have been absorbed."

But Mr Maltby is far from pessimistic about the outlook. Castrol is already the largest independent lubricants marketer in the world and although hit recently by the recession he believes it has great potential, now times are improving.

Money is being pumped in with a drive for expansion in Europe the USA and latterly Japan, with a big increase in attention to the industrial market and more technically demanding and profitable areas.

Halfords is undergoing big changes in merchandising and marketing with a switch to larger stores, and the speciality chemicals side is being gradually expanded through a series of relatively small acquisitions.

The big disappointment here was the failure of the 1981 bid for Croda International which would, Mr Maltby says, have provided the heart and soul of this division. It was a unique opportunity and one which is unlikely to recur he says.

Now Burmah has returned to its established policy of building up through smaller acquisitions. There have been seven in the last two years in the chemicals and lubricants divisions.

Mr Maltby believes strongly in proceeding with caution and making sure the management is not overstretched in the time-consuming task of integrating new businesses.

On the oil exploration and production side, he rejects the view that Burmah will gradually fade out with the Thistle field. There has been "a tremendous build up" in this he says, with the number of professional staff rising from about 15 in 1979 to 85 now.

But he is not promising any great leaps forward. His summing up is one of quiet optimism. "Sadly, in the business world things take longer than you wish and your critics expect."

It remains to be seen if that will provoke or dissuade the various takeover bidders regularly rumoured to be interested in Burmah's future.

Financial notebook

The professor's way to beat inflation

The latest surge in industry's input costs revealed by official statistics last week is a potent reminder of the vulnerability of Britain's open economy to world inflation and to changes in the exchange rate through which this is transmitted.

The Government has long abandoned dogmatic monetarism - which asserted that a tight rein on domestic money supply was all that was needed to control inflation - in favour of an eclectic approach which takes the value of sterling into account.

But in a world of floating currencies and vast international capital flows there are limits to the Government's ability to influence the exchange rate, and it has no power over world prices.

A scheme which claimed to keep down global inflation and stabilize exchange rates with one simple money growth rule could thus be expected to appeal to ministers eager to hold on to their inflation success despite adverse pressures.

Such a scheme exists. It is the brainchild of the American Professor Ronald McKinnon, of Stanford University, and it has already attracted much influential support, most recently from Mr Johannes Witteveen, former managing director of the International Monetary Fund and now chairman of the Group of 30 top international bankers and economists.

Professor McKinnon's basic hypothesis is that inflation in industrial countries is determined more by world money supply growth and exchange rate changes than by domestic monetary expansion. This is as true for the United States - where imports account for only 12 per cent of expenditure - as it is for Britain, where they account for 30 per cent.

The professor argues that the pursuit of national monetary targets has led to intensification of the world boom-and-bust cycle and to destabilizing swings in exchange rates.

To see why, consider what happens if the dollar is expected to weaken. American shift cash out of dollars into other currencies such as the yen and the Deutsche mark. This reduces the American money supply and pushes up the value of the other currencies against the dollar.

But Germany and Japan try to resist the appreciation of their currencies to protect their economies from worsening competitiveness. They buy dollars in exchange for yen and Deutsche marks which boosts their own domestic money supply.

But the US Federal Reserve Board, finding monetary growth below target at home, also expands the supply. The result is faster world money growth, faster world inflation and exaggeration of the original exchange rate movements. The US ends up with the lion's share of the extra inflation imported via a falling dollar.

Professor McKinnon's solution is to set a target for world money supply consistent with low global inflation - allocated between the three biggest economies, the United States, Germany and Japan. If the dollar then falls, say, the Fed would reduce monetary growth to offset a higher pace of expansion in the two other countries.

This would both keep the lid on inflation and help bring currencies back into line.

Would it work? According to an analysis by Simon & Coates, the stockbroker, there is considerable evidence to back Professor McKinnon's claim that world money growth is the key to domestic inflation. But the principal and polished obstacles to his solution are daunting.

As Mr Witteveen put it in his Per Jacobsson lecture in Washington, "the willingness or ability of governments to cooperate to effect an international agreement is minimal except in an immediate crisis".

It is hard to see even Mr Paul Volcker, the respected Fed chairman, telling an increasingly isolationist and xenophobic Congress that American interest rates must rise to make the dollar less competitive with the German and Japanese currencies.

As for Britain, Professor McKinnon told the Treasury Select Committee of MPs last year that the Government should concentrate on the exchange rate as the centrepiece of monetary strategy. But there are no signs yet that ministers are prepared to go that far in overturning the old monetarist orthodoxy.

Frances Williams

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101	Anglo-Siam	100	10	201	British Telecom	100	10	301	Johnson & Johnson	100	10	401	Unilever	100	10
102	Anglo-Tan	100	10	202	British Airways	100	10	302	Glaxo	100	10	402	Woolworths	100	10
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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

The Eagle takes off

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin, Oct 17; Dealings end, Oct 20; Contango Day, Oct 21; Settlement Day, Nov 7.

Shares of Eagle Star Holdings again leapt to prominence yesterday sporting 20p to 470p as word went round the market that the German group, Allianz Holdings, had sold its entire 28 per cent stake.

But both sides were keeping silent last night. Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle, said: "We never comment on market rumours". But he did admit that he had been swamped with telephone calls from brokers asking him to confirm the story.

Allianz's man in London, Mr Ulrich Roder, also refused to comment. "There have been so many rumours over the past three years", he said.

One thing is certain, if Allianz has sold its stake it will be walking away with a fat profit. Allianz bought its stake in two stages back in 1981.

The first 17.8 million shares were bought by way of a dawn raid and the remaining 17 million by an offer by tender at 290p a share. The total bill for the deal was £111m. Since then bid reports have seen shares of Eagle almost double and last night's closing price of 470p valued Allianz's stake at £180m.

A paper profit of almost £70m. Close observers in the market reckon the sale of Allianz's stake could signal a full bid for Eagle, worth £647m, from South Africa.

Britannia Arrow's proposed £22m rights issue is running into trouble. Yesterday the shares slipped 1p to 75p matching the rights price. The shares have been as high as 95p this year on hopes of a bid, but the speculators now appear to have been flushed out. If the share price continues to fall the ECM called for November 3, might be forced to reject the proposal.

The rest of the equity market presented a steadier appearance after the weakness of the past few days, but investors still refused to be tempted from the sidelines. As a result turnover remained low as reflected in the FT index which closed 0.6 up at 678.2.

Gilt recovered from a nervous start helped by the latest public sector borrowing requirement which was much in line with expectations. Falls of up to 50p were halved by the close in quiet trade. On the foreign exchange the pound closed unchanged against the dollar at \$1.5005.

A few cheap buyers helped the big four clearing banks make a long awaited rally. Barclays rose 10p to 434p, Lloyds 8p to 447p, Midland 7p to 384p and National Westminster 10p to 567p.

The retail sector made a confident start awaiting details of Springwatch. Kemp's shares in the City, but shares failed to hold on to their best gains of the day as interest dried up. MFI closed 2p lower at 130p, H. J. R. 4p higher at 264p, Debenhams

rose 2p to 126p. One bright spot was House of Fraser 6p up at 216p.

Electronic components group BSR rose 7p to 145p as it started its whirlwind visit to various brokers to give a progress report and soothe fears.

Most Scotch whisky shares are bumping around their year low points but Macallan Glenlivet is riding at a 630p peak inspired by the success of its Macallan single malt (now at least the fourth best seller in Britain) and the share buying interest of bigger rivals Highland Distilleries which has a 6 per cent interest.

over the group's involvement in Hongkong.

But Mr Peter McMaster, chairman of Humberside Electronics, has forecast a major turnaround in the group's affairs

this year. Last year the group made a trading loss of £156,000 against a profit the previous year of £236,000.

What is behind the recent surge of interest in shares of Peak Holdings, the animal foods and grain storage group, where the shares continue to hover around the year's high? It is obviously a question that has been bothering the Peak board too. Yesterday it issued a statement saying it was aware of market reports affecting the share price and stating it knew of no reason for recent activity in the shares.

"No takeover approach has been received", it added. The statement succeeded in taking some of the steam out of the price which closed 2p lower at 38p.

Castle (GB), the kitchen and bathroom equipment supplier, has exceeded the profits forecast of £1.1m it made when it joined the Unlisted Securities Market in May. Yesterday it reported pretax profits up from £902,000 to £1.9m and is paying a forecast gross dividend of 0.86p.

Castle Kitchens made a profit of £1.5m, while the last dividend recorded a loss of £133,000.

1982/83 High Low Stock Price Chg % Yld Div P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

1982/83	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg %	Yld	Div	P/E
1982/83	100.00	95.00	Each	100.00	5.00	5.00	1.00	10.00
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1982/83	100.00	95.00	Each	100.00	5.00	5.00	1.00	10.00

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

161	Beacon Clark	131	0	5.0	
162	Beckman	132	0	5.0	
163	Beckman A	133	0	5.0	
164	Beckman A	134	0	5.0	
165	Beckman A	135	0	5.0	
166	Beckman A	136	0	5.0	
167	Beckman A	137	0	5.0	
168	Beckman A	138	0	5.0	
169	Beckman A	139	0	5.0	
170	Beckman A	140	0	5.0	
171	Beckman A	141	0	5.0	
172	Beckman A	142	0	5.0	
173	Beckman A	143	0	5.0	
174	Beckman A	144	0	5.0	
175	Beckman A	145	0	5.0	
176	Beckman A	146	0	5.0	
177	Beckman A	147	0	5.0	
178	Beckman A	148	0	5.0	
179	Beckman A	149	0	5.0	
180	Beckman A	150	0	5.0	
181	Beckman A	151	0	5.0	
182	Beckman A	152	0	5.0	
183	Beckman A	153	0	5.0	
184	Beckman A	154	0	5.0	
185	Beckman A	155	0	5.0	
186	Beckman A	156	0	5.0	
187	Beckman A	157	0	5.0	
188	Beckman A	158	0	5.0	
189	Beckman A	159	0	5.0	
190	Beckman A	160	0	5.0	
191	Beckman A	161	0	5.0	
192	Beckman A	162	0	5.0	
193	Beckman A	163	0	5.0	
194	Beckman A	164	0	5.0	
195	Beckman A	165	0	5.0	
196	Beckman A	166	0	5.0	
197	Beckman A	167	0	5.0	
198	Beckman A	168	0	5.0	
199	Beckman A	169	0	5.0	
200	Beckman A	170	0	5.0	

BOYCOTT AFFAIR: THE BATSMAN IS GONE BUT THE ACROMONY LINGERS ON

No compromise from the committee men

By Keith Macklin

Geoffrey Boycott has almost certainly played his last game for Yorkshire and with his departure, the County Cricket Club will seek to "repair team harmony and morale, build a younger team and re-establish Yorkshire's place as a major cricket county".

But the affair is by no means over. A special general meeting of the club can be called at the request of 25 per cent of the membership, and it is a hurriedly convened press conference, Sid Fielder, a general committee member and also a leading light in the pro-Boycott Reform Group of Yorkshire members, expressed the continuing disagreement.

He said: "It is a triumph for human folly. They are jealous men, whose jealousy of one man turned into hatred. They are uncharitable men who have denied a man the opportunity of playing cricket for just another testimonial season, and they are foolish men who have refused to heed the wishes of members of the club."

His angry words followed lengthy meetings of the cricket committee and the general committee of Yorkshire County Cricket Club yesterday, after which a statement was read reaffirming the decision not to renege Boycott's contract. Thus the two committees stood firm against the recent demand at a Reform Group public meeting, that Boycott should be reinstated for one more year to take his testimonial and "say goodbye to the cricketers of Yorkshire and England".

In the course of a lengthy statement, the county secretary, Joe Lister, said the decision of the Cricket committee had been made unanimously, and the decision of the general committee had been made by 18 votes to eight.

The statement was read by Mr Lister in the presence of the chairman of the general committee and the cricket committee, Michael Crawford and Ronnie Burnett, and during the course of it, Mr Lister read: "In reaching their decision, the committee had to take into account the fact that over the past few years the club has not achieved the results

satisfactory to Yorkshire members until the winning of the John Player Special League this year."

The statement added that it had been widely recognized by Yorkshire that the time comes when older players must give way to younger, and that promising youngsters must have the chance to show what they can do, to avoid the risk of losing them. Then came a vitally relevant passage: "The committee is anxious to ensure that the future of the club is not subjected to a background of dissension and discord in a form-destraining dressing-room atmosphere."

The statement appealed to the Reform Group to consider the statement carefully, and not to take hasty action which would damage the club.

Still a field of conflict

So far there has been little interest shown by other counties in signing Boycott, although he has been linked with Nottinghamshire. The only county to leave the door open for him is Warwickshire, who will consider whether to approach him this evening. The club's chairman, Mike Jones, said: "I don't know how my committee will feel about it. They might throw it straight out."

Yorkshire's committee must be fervently hoping they do not, for the pro-Boycott faction on the committee has been making a lot of noise. The words of Sid Fielder weeks ago, that "there will be trouble this winter on a scale never witnessed before in the county," are being taken seriously.

Although outvoted by 18-8 on the General Committee, having gained only one vote from the original meeting on October 3, they immediately announced plans for a signature-gathering meeting at the Ossett Post House this Sunday. Two hundred and fifty signatures are required for them to call a special general meeting of the club, the AGM having rejected the committee's proposal to increase the number to 1,000 earlier in the year, and there is little doubt that they will achieve their objective, in spite of the appeal implicit in the club's statement.

A special general meeting has to be convened within 21 days. At the time, the pro-Boycott faction will present their case, calling for the reinstatement of Boycott for one more year, and for votes of no confidence in both the General and cricket committees.

The call for his reinstatement one more year is slightly ambiguous, one of the facts placed before the committee earlier today being that Boycott had indicated his desire to play for more than one year, thus ruling out the possibility of the compromise of allowing him to play through his testimonial season with the promise that he would then retire gracefully.

But, just as there was when the prospect of a one year contract was first mooted in July, there is conflicting evidence. In his statement yesterday Boycott apparently contradicted what he said to Mr Burnett on Friday, saying: "I can only say again that I would like to have been given the chance to play out my testimonial year before leaving on a happy note."

This statement will obviously add fuel to the flames of discontent, and the propositions for the committee are not happy ones.

The likelihood is that all the motions will be passed, and battle will be joined. The Yorkshire County Cricket Club has lost the opportunity for a perfect compromise, that is where everyone walks away slightly dissatisfied. Now they know they will be looking for a new meeting, and they are responsible for this. They could have come out nearly smelling of roses. They have committed the county not to reconstruction, but to its destruction. It can only go downhill. This is a sorry day. The men in charge lack all compassion."

The committee are aware that two and a half per cent of members are able to requisition a special general meeting. If such a requisition is received, the committee are fully prepared to justify their decision to the members of the club," it read.

The general committee had taken its decision to renege Boycott's testimonial independently of any decision in his contract, because it was felt that the members of the club and the cricketers-leaving players should have an opportunity of showing their appreciation of Geoff Boycott's years of service to the county since his arrival in 1974.

"Repetitively, after the Cheltenham affair, the position deteriorated. A matter which in other counties would have been considered of minor importance became a burning issue. The Yorkshire County Cricket Club, however, became public, and inevitably the atmosphere in the dressing-room once more suffered. Bearing in mind the difficulties faced in retaining younger players, and the urgent need to restore team harmony and morale, the committee decided that a start must be made to rebuild a younger Yorkshire team, in order to re-establish Yorkshire's position as one of the premier cricket-playing counties."

"The county was fortunate in

the team were given equal and fair recognition."

"During the course of the year, soundings were taken also as to the possibility of Geoffrey Boycott retiring at the end of next season, for which he had already been granted a testimonial."

"Geoffrey indicated, and he confirmed this at a meeting with Mr Crawford and Mr Ronnie Burnett, chairman of the cricket committee, on Friday October 14, that it was his wish to continue playing after next season, and it had been his hope that he would regain his place as an opening batsman for England."

"Both committees reaffirmed the decision which had been taken on Monday, October 3, in the case of the cricket committee unanimously, and in the case of the general committee by 18 votes to eight."

"In reaching their respective decisions committees had to take into account the fact that over the past few years the club has not succeeded in achieving results satisfactory to Yorkshire members until the winning of the John Player Special League this year."

"It has always been recognized that there comes a time when older players must give way to younger players, so that the club can give its more promising youngsters the chance to show what they can do, with the risk of losing them to Yorkshire cricket."

The committees are most anxious to ensure that the young players now coming into the side should not be subject to a background of dissension and discord which creates a lack of confidence and a form-destraining atmosphere, and to ensure also that the achievements of all members of

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Decision certain to cause a storm

By Peter Ball

Whatever the future holds for Geoffrey Boycott, the immediate reaction of Yorkshire County Cricket Club is stormy. That was made clear immediately after yesterday's decision when the pro-Boycott camp held a press conference in the boardroom of Radio Aire.

Speaking from his home, Boycott said: "I am naturally very disappointed, but I would like to thank all those who have supported me. I don't know what the future holds for me, but I'd like to wish the team all the best."

So far there has been little interest shown by other counties in signing Boycott, although he has been linked with Nottinghamshire. The only county to leave the door open for him is Warwickshire, who will consider whether to approach him this evening. The club's chairman, Mike Jones, said: "I don't know how my committee will feel about it. They might throw it straight out."

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This statement will obviously add fuel to the flames of discontent, and the propositions for the committee are not happy ones.

The likelihood is that all the motions will be passed, and battle will be joined. The Yorkshire County Cricket Club has lost the opportunity for a perfect compromise, that is where everyone walks away slightly dissatisfied. Now they know they will be looking for a new meeting, and they are responsible for this. They could have come out nearly smelling of roses. They have committed the county not to reconstruction, but to its destruction. It can only go downhill. This is a sorry day. The men in charge lack all compassion."

The committee are aware that two and a half per cent of members are able to requisition a special general meeting. If such a requisition is received, the committee are fully prepared to justify their decision to the members of the club," it read.

The general committee had taken its decision to renege Boycott's testimonial independently of any decision in his contract, because it was felt that the members of the club and the cricketers-leaving players should have an opportunity of showing their appreciation of Geoff Boycott's years of service to the county since his arrival in 1974.

"Repetitively, after the Cheltenham affair, the position deteriorated. A matter which in other counties would have been considered of minor importance became a burning issue. The Yorkshire County Cricket Club, however, became public, and inevitably the atmosphere in the dressing-room once more suffered. Bearing in mind the difficulties faced in retaining younger players, and the urgent need to restore team harmony and morale, the committee decided that a start must be made to rebuild a younger Yorkshire team, in order to re-establish Yorkshire's position as one of the premier cricket-playing counties."

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"Geoffrey indicated, and he confirmed this at a meeting with Mr Crawford and Mr Ronnie Burnett, chairman of the cricket committee, on Friday October 14, that it was his wish to continue playing after next season, and it had been his hope that he would regain his place as an opening batsman for England."

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"In reaching their respective decisions committees had to take into account the fact that over the past few years the club has not succeeded in achieving results satisfactory to Yorkshire members until the winning of the John Player Special League this year."

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English contingent are fortified by their dossiers

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

England's six foreign ambassadors, preparing for their European meetings today have gathered between them an armful of files about their respective opponents. Strengths rather than weaknesses have filled more space in their notes because all but one of the second round ties must be considered as a grudge match.

Manchester United are the odd ones out, which is just as well. When Ron Atkinson, their manager, flew with his squad of 19 to Bulgaria yesterday, he knew so little about Spartak Varna, their inexperienced hosts in the Cup Winners' Cup, that even the colour of their shirts remained a mystery.

Eric Harrison, United's youth team coach, and Tony Collins, a scout, were sent on a spying mission last weekend but, owing to "telephone difficulties", failed to send back any information before United's last training session. Atkinson will learn that Varna, with only one international in their side, won 2-0 on Sunday.

Varna were beaten 4-0 in last season's Bulgarian Cup final but qualified for the competition because their conquerors, CSKA Sofia, finished as champions as well as Varna, who may be embarrassed if United recapture the form they showed in Prague, are also currently out of this season's title race.

The only other relatively lowly club is Athletic Bilbao but the Spaniards will still bring a fearsome reputation with them to Anfield in the European Cup. The name of Goicoechea is not easy to pronounce but there is no mistaking his methods

which have earned him the sobriquet of "the butcher of Bilbao".

With one wild blow recently, he put Maradona out of the game for four months. His punishment for the brutal crime was originally an 18-match suspension but has since been reduced to 10. Tonight will be his first senior outing for over a month so he may be hungrier than usual. His fresh target is likely to be the unfortunate Dalglis.

Nor is that the only worry for Liverpool, unbeaten at home in the European tie for a decade. Rush, strained a groin on Saturday, and although he trained "comfortably" yesterday, he and Souless, who is suffering from a poisoned toe and did not train, will undergo late fitness tests. Joe Fagan admits that he needs them both.

Eyevood, Tottenham Hotspur's visitors in the UEFA Cup, and PSV Eindhoven, Nottingham Forest's hosts, drew with each other last Sunday and lie first and second respectively in the Dutch League. Keith Burkinshaw, Tottenham's manager, saw the game and, as well as admiring the abilities of the ageing Cruyff, was even more enthusiastic about an almost unknown youngster.

Gullitt, aged 21 and black, scored twice in his country's victory over the Republic of Ireland last week and is, in Burkinshaw's opinion, "a hell of a player. Last weekend he started in the back four, then moved up to midfield and finished up in attack. That defence is the strongest in the

An optimist among foreboders

By Hugh Taylor

For once it is Jim McLean, of Dundee United, a manager of melancholy mien, seldom accused of spreading sunshine over the Scottish football scene, who marches into European conflict on a note of cheerful optimism. His confident assertion, "of course we will do well in Belgium", contrasted strangely with the sombre outlook of his three colleagues who also involved tonight in cup ties against continental opposition.

There is, indeed, a tinge of apprehension in the minds of Alex Ferguson, of Aberdeen, Dave Hay, of Celtic, and John Greig, of Rangers. The reason is that there is stronger opposition than in the first rounds of their competitions, a falling off in form, and in the case of the first two, a depressing failure on the part of forwards to finish well conceived attacks - and that has taken some of the gloss from the glamour of Europe.

For McLean, though, it will be, he insists, a night of freedom from care as his Scottish champions meet Standard Liege in a European Cup tie. Even though United will be playing Sturrock, the manager is adamant that not only will there be "a good result" but that his team will score at least one goal. Unusually forthcoming, not to say optimistic, he says: "Our defence is superb in Europe and if we play our normal game we can dictate how this game is played. We have in Bannan and Milne a strike force which has been firing for some time on the continent."

While McLean encourages his team with high praise, Alex Ferguson takes a different tact. On the eve of the Cup Winners' Cup debut against Borussia Dortmund, he attempted to rally his players, who have sagged recently, with a biting attack in which he declared them to be doing nothing less than shocking and accused them of a lack of professionalism. And he added that he might be ready to take a gamble in fielding Strachan, the outstanding midfielder, who has been badly missed recently, even though he may not be completely fit.

Celtic flew out to Portugal for their UEFA cup tie against Sporting Lisbon with David Hay telling his players they will have to find the scoring touch which was missing against Hearts on Saturday if he added: "Perhaps sentiment was making us lose touch with the reality of the greatest glory. It is the place where we won the European Cup and I



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have stressed to the players they must not spoil for the Portuguese the memory of that great Celtic side who beat Inter Milan."

Rangers, who meet Porto at Belfort in the Cup Winners' Cup, will have Prytz back in their side and John Greig believes the midfield player, who did so much to inspire Sweden to their remarkable 3-0 win over Italy in Naples, will help to revive a team who creaked dismally in losing to Dundee on Saturday.

Despite defensive errors which have marred recent displays, Rangers still appear to be the Scottish team best equipped because of their crisp attacking style to offset the continental teams which expect to have the injured Paterson and McPherson fit in time for the tie.

Temporary transfer for Nicholas

Peter Nicholas yesterday completed his move back to Crystal Palace from Arsenal. The 23-year-old midfielder left Selhurst Park for Arsenal in March 1981 for £400,000. His return will cost Palace £150,000, but they will not start paying until July, because they are taking him on loan until then.

Nicholas has not played in the Arsenal first team this season, and was dropped and stripped of the captaincy of Wales for the friendly against Rumania last week. He returned to London immediately afterwards and had talks with Alan Mullery, Palace's manager, the following day, but did not finalize the deal until yesterday.

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Boxing
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Headguards for professionals in California
Los Angeles (Reuters) - The California state athletic commission has ordered an inquiry into whether professional boxers should wear protective headgear in the ring to avoid brain injuries, the commission chairman Haig Kelagian, said yesterday.

The inquiry follows the death of two boxers, Kiko Bejines and Isidro Perez, after bouts in the United States in the past two months. There is a distinct possibility we will start a trial programme in which boxers in preliminary bouts in California will wear headgear," Kelagian said.

He said a member of the commissions staff had designed a protective helmet made of leather and foam rubber. It would not shield a boxer's face from blows but it would reduce the impact if his head struck the canvas.

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MOTOR RACING STATISTICS OF PIQUET'S FORMULA ONE SUCCESS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Brazilian at the top of the world thanks to Britain

Nelson Piquet, the 31-year-old Brazilian driver, who won the season's first Grand Prix in his country of birth and who could so easily have won the last, title-deciding round in South Africa had he not handed this consolation prize to his Brabham team partner Riccardo Patrese, is a worthy world champion (from the second time) at the end of the season.

Two statistics of his successes speak for themselves. He accumulated points from 10 of the season's 15 qualifying races (Alain Prost, his closest championship rival, and Patrick Tambay each scored nine times). He never finished a race out of the first four places and at no stage in the battle was he out of the top three in the points table.

His end-of-season score is three first places, three second, and two thirds and two fourths. His five retirements, in order, were caused by a sticking throttle, an engine failure, a broken throttle cable, a fire at the back of his car and an accident caused by another driver (Prost), who inadvertently punted Piquet's Brabham-BMW in the side with his Renault.

Two years ago, when he won his first world title, Piquet was already strong in talent, but still not entirely in control of his emotions; rivals envied his natural abilities but were conscious of this weakness in his armoury, which at times rendered him vulnerable to attack and caused the occasional driving error.

Today, the new world cham-

Champion is a far more formidable adversary. His cockpit skill has achieved even greater depth with his growing experience and maturity. He is now the most 'laid back' of all the grand prix competitors who go about their activities from such notably refined seats.

Had Piquet failed to win the championship last Saturday afternoon, he would probably have shrugged his shoulders and smiled philosophically; he would certainly have lost no sleep over it that night. For Alain Prost, his close friend, however, who led the points table quite handsomely at one stage and for the third year in succession has failed only narrowly to become the first Frenchman to claim the title, its continuing elusiveness must be a bitter blow.

It had been clear from the start that 1983 was to be the year of the turbo and so there would have been a certain justice if motor racing's top prize had gone to the Renault team, who had pioneered this form of formula one engine power more than six arduous and immensely costly seasons ago.

But 1983 was to bring more than a change in propulsion for the most successful teams. Significantly changed technical regulations with the banning of body work side skirts posed fundamental new questions for car designers and engineers only weeks before the start of the new season.

Speed of reaction to changed circumstances has long been the hall mark of the tight-knit, slimline highly motivated British-based teams, and in such an environment during the closing weeks of 1982 the Brabham team was to excel. They alone were able to field, from the start

of the season, a team of brand new cars designed from scratch around the new rules, rather than conversions of earlier designs.

Gordon Murray's radically new Brabham BT52, dash-shaped and elegantly slim, was destined to serve Piquet well. So too, were the second-generation BMW torques, which overcame most of the reliability problems which had marred Brabham's 1982 season.

It had been thought that the new chassis rules might extend still further the life of the Ford Cosworth 3-litre engine. They did, but only for a few weeks. Michele Alboreto's mid-season victory in Detroit in his Tyrrell marked the turning point after on less than 155 successes.

Up to that day in June, 95 championship points had been accumulated with turbo-charged cars and 80 (of which six were subsequently to be disallowed) with the Ford Cosworth V8. Thereafter, all but 14 of the 200 points from the remaining eight races went to the turbos.

Tyres were also to play a prominent role. All season long it was a case of compounds for courses, but in the main Michelin had the edge in race rubber, whereas Goodyear often had a better qualifying tyre. Goodyear experimented with radial tyres, but in the dry conditions which persisted for much of the year their cross-ply remained superior.

Pirelli had what can only be described as a difficult year, which exacerbated the problems of both the JPS Lotus and Candy Toleman teams. For Lotus, the main culprit was an overweight car, which was speedily scrapped and replaced following the arrival of the French designer Gerard Doucrouge. For Toleman it was turbo fragility, which was overcome following a change to Holset turbochargers.

Both the Marlboro McLaren and TAG Williams teams had to make the difficult transition to turbo power, and for both of

them 1983 brought a few bright moments (John Watson's victory at Long Beach, Keke Rosberg's at Monaco) and a great deal of hard work, the rewards of which will not be seen until next year.

Ferrari, having pinned a 'reserved' notice on Alboreto in mid-year in anticipation of sending Arnoux on his way at the end of it, saw fit to give Tambay his marching orders instead after Arnoux had collected sufficient late-season points to make him a championship contender. He was to remain only that, but Ferrari did at least claim the constructors' championship, for the second year running.

Perhaps the best news of 1983 was that a full season of Grand Prix racing punctuated by mid-race refuelling stops could be completed without so much as a single major conflagration. It is to be hoped that this will be put down to extreme good fortune as much as to skill and that rumoured moves to continue

the practice next year will be snuffed out with the speed and precision demanded of a fire-fighter.

The curtain has now been drawn on the first full season of the new turbo era of Grand Prix racing, which has emerged from 17 years of achievement with three-litre formula, way back in 1966, 1983 has been a resounding success - a highly competitive season during which the pace has been set by a British, a French and an Italian team.

In the end it was a Brazilian driver who justly claimed motor racing's crown, and it was a German engine which powered him on his journey. But it was the British Brabham team which gathered together all the ingredients and masterminded his success. In this they have maintained a long and honourable tradition: a British team has supplied the world champion 20 times in the last 25 years.

John Blunsden

RACKETS

Challenge to Preenn put back

By William Stephens

John Preenn, the world racket champion, has been forced to postpone the challenge to William Blount, his main rival, scheduled for January 4, 7 and 12 next year, because of an injury to his lower back.

Old Harrovian chairman of the Rackets Pyramis Company, in Saville Row, Preenn, who is 36, had shown consideration for the development of the game in accepting the challenge from Blount, aged 33, an Old Etonian, since the latter had remained dominant in the 'rackets' during last season and was under no obligation to put his title at stake. Preenn, however, is keen to attract more players and spectators to the sport.

Preenn noticed the twinge in his back last season, and when he began gentle training in July on the stone floor of a rackets court, getting his short back with training exercises, twisting and turning, he suffered stabbing pains and realized the seriousness of the injury, which is to the right sacrospinous joint.

He is receiving treatment from an osteopath, and his return to peak fitness over a period of three months is being supervised by Fred Street, physiotherapist to the England football team who was 12 years with Arsenal.

Preenn will try to play in the Neal Brown doubles starting October 29 and the Coleman invitation Singles, December 9, as a fitness exercise. All goes well, he has pencilled in dates for the two legs of the challenge Saturday, March 31, at the Montrose Rackets Club, and the following Saturday, April 7, at Queen's Club in London.

Botham's goal

Ian Botham, the England cricket all-rounder, is set to play for Southport at Bristol Rovers next weekend.

SQUASH

Kenyon and Briars fight back

Ankland, (Renter) - Ahmed Safwat, of Egypt, scored one of the best wins of his career when he beat England's world number three, Hidayat Jahan in the world team squash championships here yesterday.

But Safwat's 8-10, 9-4, 9-5, 9-6 triumph in the intermediate pool Group B was not enough to give the Egyptians a win over the second seeds, who fought back to take the match 2-1 thanks to victories by Phil Kenyon and Gawain Briars. Egypt, who had already secured their place in the last four, meet the

Group A winners and top seeds, Pakistan, in the semi-finals tonight, while England face the third seeds, Australia.

Pakistan routed Australia 3-0 in another intermediate pool game yesterday. But the third seeds rested their number one, Dean Williams, for the semi-finals. Sweden beat Canada 3-0 and New Zealand defeated the United States 2-1.

INTERMEDIATE POOL: Final placements Group A: 1. Pakistan; 2. Australia; 3. New Zealand; 4. United States. Group B: 1. England; 2. Egypt; 3. Sweden; 4. Canada.

Hidayat Jahan dons new livery

A Pathan warrior chieftain takes the king's shilling

One of the best known stories in squash recalls how Hidayat Jahan almost lost his life travelling to a trial for the Pakistan team. He hung like an ambushing Apache from the slow train from Quetta to Karachi when at three o'clock in the morning it made an unexpectedly quick restart. Then after a mile of clinging a signal knocked him to the ground unconscious.

Fortunately other peoples' screams managed to halt the train and Jahan was taken to hospital but, as heroes do, soon discharged himself and played the trial anyway. He was too hurt to play well and did not make the team. He never did. Now, 16 years later, he never will. He is playing now for England in the ISRF world championships at Auckland.

That Jahan should not have achieved his ambition, is quite remarkable. His appearance, style, and bearing was, and at 33, still is every bit the image of the - Pathan warrior chief. Handsome, meaningly burly, and unequalled in the power of his hitting, he has been easily the most stirring sight in squash and also one of only two players really capable of beating the great Geoff Hunt during the late seventies. The other one is Qamar Zaman, his boyhood companion from Quetta.

Jahan won tournaments all round the world and reached the final of both the Pakistan and British opens. Last season he rose to number two in the world. His increasingly subtle, gentle deception helped make him one of the great players of his time and one of the great entertainers. Even all this was not enough for him to play for his country.

Explaining his exclusion by the cascade of talent that overflowed from Pakistan during the same time - as well as Zaman there was Gogi Alauddin, Mohibullah Khan, Maqsood Ahmed and later Jahan's rival Kenyon - would be inadequate. It is only a partial and subsidiary explanation to point to the quarrels between the often boisterously emotional and independent-minded Jahan, and an authoritarian official.

True, in 1981 when once again he was not selected, Jahan walked demonstratively out of the Hashim Khan Trophy event saying he would neither play in the Pakistan Masters nor in Pakistan ever again. But he did, returning from Quetta a few days later to beat Mohibullah, then the Pakistan number two. True, too, in Karachi earlier this year he again erupted with public anger when it was decided to redraw the seeding for the Pakistan open. Again he



Jahan: a gift for power, a talent for deception

said he would never play again in Pakistan.

But these quarrels largely derive from another, earlier, far more significant one. In 1974 Jahan decided to play in the lucrative South African open, even though he had refused previous invitations. Part of the reason was that his father had lost both job and home, but that made no difference to the enforcement of Pakistani Government policy, which was dead against compromising with apartheid.

Jahan was suspended by the Pakistan Squash Rackets Federation, and fearing that if he returned home he might not be allowed to leave again he was separated from his family for two and a half years. Now he only returns for the purpose of seeing them and he will not, he says, change his mind again about playing in Pakistan.

It would be easy to attribute an overweening ambition to the selectors' main motive. With Briars, Kenyon and Jahan in the side England for the first time has three in the world's top 10, and cannot be discounted as outsiders to win in New Zealand. And at the same time there has been predictable opposition to Jahan's selection.

Malcolm Willstrop, the talented coach who experienced enough ups and downs in bringing along Briars, now finds his 19-year-old son, Chrissy, squeezed into the position of England's official reserve, something he has described as ludicrous. "I cannot believe Jahan's selection - and I am sure it was hard to resist for all sorts of reasons - meets with approval in the English squash scene or among the English sporting public at large," he says.

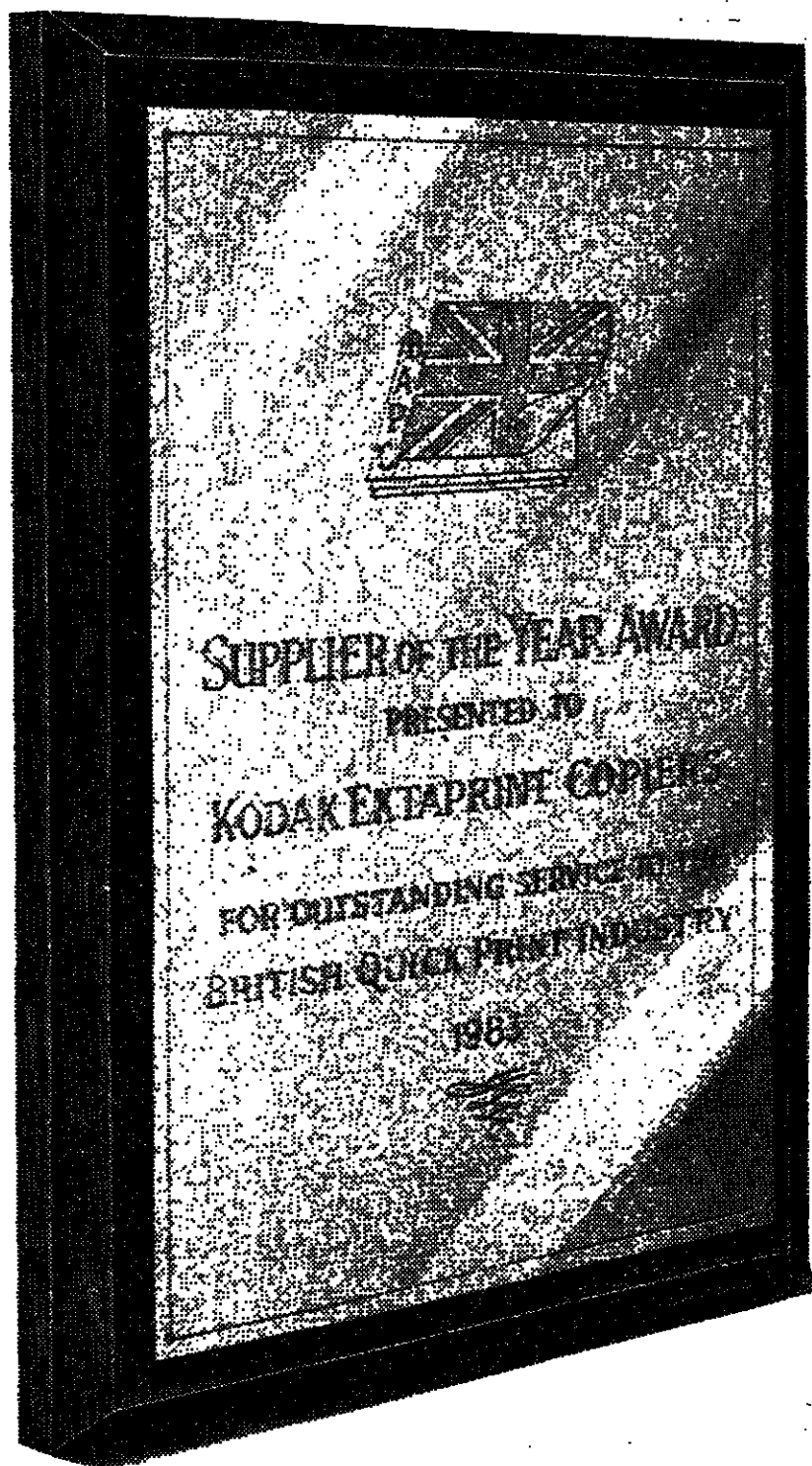
Jahan's unusual career may continue in controversial circumstances. He was the chairman of the International Squash Players Association till a year ago, yet in March at Chichester the first professional in the history of the game to be disqualified from a tournament. Whatever the rights and wrongs of that, it is a fact that the same open, frank but combustible temperament that flared during his relations with Pakistani officials has from time to time been in evidence with English referees and markers.

He is unlikely to change now. Indeed he likes to quote Tony Greig, a South African who played cricket for England, on the subject of match officials. "We get stuck when we make mistakes and so should they," he says. "They get paid too now and should be criticised in the same way as us." Fortunately, new procedural and penalty point rules appear to be in the pipeline which should prevent a repeat of the suddenness of that confrontation last March.

Jahan may though have to face the feelings of his countrymen if England meet Pakistan. "I'll get strange looks and a bad response from some of the boys," he says. "But whether I play Jahan or Zaman or whoever it is I'll put it out of my mind and concentrate solely on playing." That will require all the singlemindedness and strength of character he can muster.

Quetta, a place with dramatic mountain scenery, is populated by people who roamed the heights for a long time before they settled. The embattled Jahan too has had a long and difficult journey from the moment that fateful signal struck him to the ground.

Richard Eaton



The day a 'Kodak' copier actually broke down.

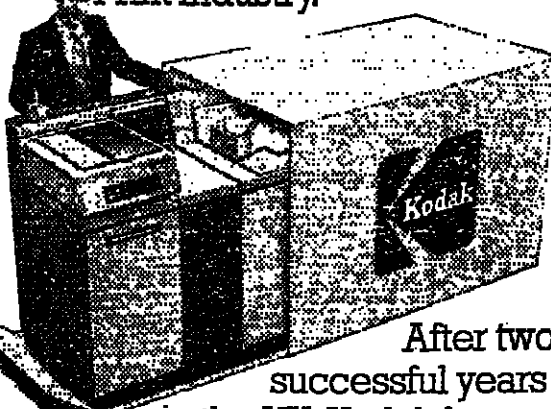
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Country Properties

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 **Celestial AM**.
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.50, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; keep fit between 6.45 and 7.00; tonight's television previewed between 7.15 and 7.30; Mike Smith's pop review between 7.30 and 8.00; a review of the morning papers at 7.32 and 8.32; the That's Life line between 7.30 and 8.00 and again between 8.30 and 9.00; and horoscopes between 8.30 and 8.45.

9.00 **The New Adventures of Flash Gordon**. 9.20 **Mastermind**. Magnus Magnusson with a repeat of an earlier series. 9.55 **Day Out**. Gavin Richards reviews the delights of Dudley and the Black Country. 10.25 **Interval**. 10.30 **Play School** (r). 10.55 **Gherard**. A magazine programme for Asian women. This week the discussion deals with the difficulties faced by Asian women when talking to their doctor. 11.20 **Closedown**.

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TV-am

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TV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools**. Two urban legends. 9.47 **Bigamy and prejudice**. 10.04 **Magical and mystery**. 10.21 **Television in Holland**. 10.48 **Send movement and film sport** at 8.30, 8.50 and 9.10; sport at 8.35 and 7.40; a review of the morning papers at 7.32 and 8.32; the That's Life line between 7.30 and 8.00 and again between 8.30 and 9.00; and horoscopes between 8.30 and 8.45.

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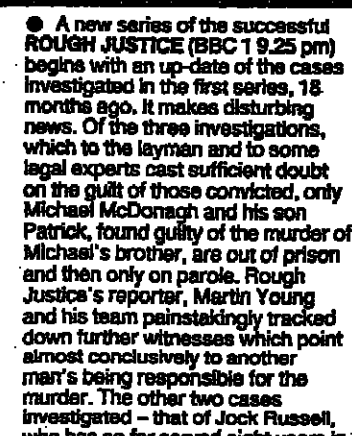
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Ann Mitchell as Mary Simmonds. BBC 2.5.55 pm

9.10 **Daytime on Two**. Technical studies: Presswork. 9.38 **Fabrics**. 10.10 **You and Me**. 10.15 **Fractures**. 10.38 **Trigonometry**. 11.00 **Words and Pictures**. 11.17 **Vocal Studies**. 11.39 **Who is Big Brother?** 12.05 **Italian conversation**. Lesson five. 12.30 **For parents of mentally handicapped children**. 12.55 **Brian Rix with another in the series designed to help moderately handicapped young adults** (ends a 1.35). 1.38 **Messing**. 2.01 **Watch 2.18** **Travel**. 2.40 **Episode two of Hungry Times**. **Closedown** at 3.00.

5.35 **News summary with subtitles**. 5.40 **Wildlife on Two**. An examination of the life of a small insect known as the *Blattella*. The narrator is David Attenborough (r). 6.05 **Eighty-five Years**. Robin Denwood reviews the week's rock and pop news and the latest releases with Andy Summers, Ian Dury and Mari Wilson. 6.35 **Great Railway Journeys of the World**. Brian Thompson on the '85 Down Madras Mail' through southern India (r). 7.35 **Discovering Hedgehog**. David Streeter and Rosemarie Richardson discover the delights of the English countryside in October. They witness a hedgehog laying, competitor; examine the habits of some of the smaller creatures of the hedgerows; and prepare Christmas treats with the last of the hedgerow wits.

7.50 **Channel Four News**. 7.55 **Comment**. Filling the political gap this week is the Labour MP for Poole, Harriet Harman. 8.00 **Brookside**. Sheila is furious as Samantha steals the limelight at the factory. 8.30 **Twenty Twenty Vision**. The trial of Carol Compton. A documentary about 20-year-old Carol Compton, a Scottish nanny who is in an Italian jail awaiting trial for the attempted murder of a three-year-old child in her care and five charges of arson. Branded as a witch in Italy, it is thought that the first may have been caused by the paramour.

9.00 **Johnnie Rennie: The Violin and Viola Sonatas**. The third and last programme in the series deals with the Opus 120 Violoncello. Originally written for the clarinet they were arranged for violin and viola by Brahms himself. They are played by Pinchas Zukerman and Marc Neikrug. 10.05 **Options**. John Gore, former editor of The Times Literary Supplement, talks about some of tonight's matches between the three series.

10.35 **Film: Blood of the Condor** (1969). A Bolivian-made film about the head of the Che Guevara Indians who discovers that a clinic set up by the American Peace Corps is being used to starve and domesticate people in an attempt to control the birthrate. Directed by Jorge Sanjinés. **Closedown** at 12.00.

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Kinnock fears right swing in Mirror sale

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The Labour Party executive is expected to demand meetings with Reed International over its proposed sale of Mirror Group Newspapers and in particular the *Daily Mirror*, the only national daily to back the party in the June election.

In private talks with senior editorial executives at the paper, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, has expressed grave concern over the possibility of a swing to the right in the paper's political philosophy after the flotation.

Mr Michael Meacher, a member of the national executive's media study group, has written to the company and will raise the subject in the Commons next week.

Reed made clear yesterday that despite short-term assurances about the paper's character there could be no long-term guarantees. There could be no legal impediment to a takeover bid.

It seemed last night that even one of the short-term pledges may not be fulfilled to the satisfaction of Labour. The company made it known originally that the chairman of the newly floated company would be acceptable to both the Labour movement and the City.

But a senior source at the *Daily Mirror* said the new chairman, unnamed but already appointed, had no ostensible links with left-wing politics.

"We were looking for a man who was acceptable to banks and other City institutions and that is what he has got. His politics did not come into it," the source reported.

Labour's new executive is to meet next Wednesday and the

Daily Mirror sale will undoubtedly provoke some anxiety. Mr Leslie Carpenter, chief executive of Reed International, told *The Times* that the only guarantee that the *Daily Mirror* would retain its political flavour lay in the traditional attitude of the staff and management. Any attempt to move the paper to the right would be met with strong opposition, he thought.

He disclosed that the paper's senior management had rejected suggestions that there could be guarantees on similar lines to those accepted by Mr Rupert Murdoch in 1981 when he took over *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Those assurances included the appointment of independent national directors with specific powers. Reed had promised to float off the *Mirror* Group in a form that would be acceptable to the Labour movement, although that is where the responsibilities would end.

Under proposals being studied by the board of the new company would be made up of the present *Mirror* group directors and the new chairman, whose identity is expected to be revealed within the next seven days, and two non-executive directors, possibly with left of centre sympathies.

The new company's vulnerability to take over is also of concern to the TUC's printing industries committee which will be meeting later this month.

Mr Meacher, a prominent member of the Campaign for Press Freedom, yesterday sent a letter to Sir Alexander Jarratt, chairman of Reed International, expressing concern over the intended sale.

Reagan men start work

Continued from page 1

former Secretary of Transportation, is to run the "National Strategy Committee" and is expected to become campaign manager next year.

Mr Ed Rollins, the President's political adviser, and his deputy, Mr Lee Atwater, have left their jobs at the White House to work full time on the campaign. They have hired three part-time consultants - Mr Lyn Nofziger, Mr Charles Black and Mr Robert Teeter, all veterans of 1980 - to set up a

massive media and advertising campaign.

Extensive work has already been done on campaign strategy. As in 1980 it will be built around Mr Reagan, who remains a popular personality and a pre-eminent communicator. In 1984, however, his campaign staff will also be able to exploit the formidable powers of incumbency. As President, Mr Reagan can command instant national attention and use his position to control and dominate the political debate.

Leading article, page 13

Inevitable change in the face of British seaside holidays

Butlin's closes camps at Clacton and Filey

By Thomson Prentice

The closure of Butlin's holiday camps at Clacton in Essex, and Filey, in North Yorkshire, announced yesterday amounts to more than a black day for loyal redcoats. Their demise marks the inevitable surrender to social change: two names on the map will have lost much of their meaning.

"These two centres are no longer viable, and regrettably, must be closed", Mr Bobbie Butlin, the chairman and son of the late famous founder, said. Sir Billy died in 1980, having retired in 1968, when the tide was already turning against his holiday camps.

In his day families went to the seaside or the fairground. He combined both attractions and opened his first camp at Skegness in 1936 from the profits of a hoop-la stall. It was opened by Amy Johnson.

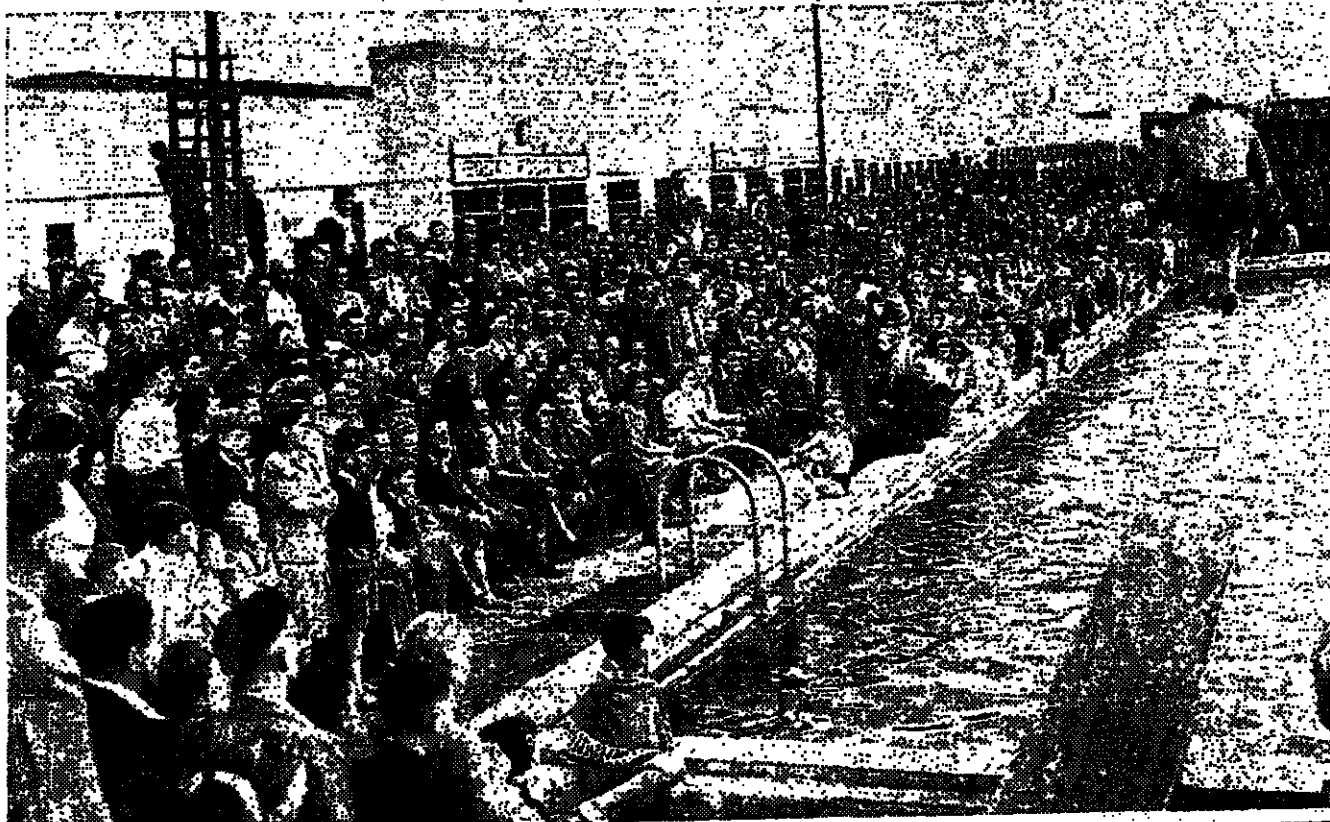
The Clacton camp was built in 1932. Work on Filey was postponed because of the war, and the Ayr and Pwllheli camps were constructed instead. The Admiralty gave Butlin the contract to put up naval accommodation. Butlin's bought the sites back when the war ended.

"The reason for my success is the weather", he once said. "When it is cold and wet I provide things for people to go indoors". But of course, holidaymakers discovered that it is seldom wet or cold in Spain in summer, and flocked there instead in the package-deal days of the sixties.

Butlin sold his camps to the Rank Organisation in 1968 for £44m. The previous year turnover at the camps was down for the first time, profits were lower for the second consecutive year, and 100,000 fewer people had booked into his chalets.

His son Bobbie took over responsibility of the camps on behalf of Rank. Sir Billy retired with dignity to Jersey. The camps were renamed "main centres" and the loud-speakers blaring "Wakey wakey" and "Good morning, campers!" were disconnected. The stampedes at meal-times were replaced with self-catering accommodation.

Plans were announced, in 1981, for a £20m expansion programme including hotels in Torremolinos. Butlin's arch-rival, Sir Fred Pontin, had also realized that the traditional holiday camps were doomed. As Pontin said yesterday, "It will have the effect of enabling us to strengthen our total business. About 60 people at both centres are likely to be made



Happy days at Butlin's. Top, rapt audience for a diving display at Clacton in 1946; above left, beauty contest at Filey in 1953; above right, "Wakey wakey" call at a camp in 1946.

redundant. He added that more than one million people took their holidays at Butlin's this year.

The first Butlin's camp at Skegness offered a week's holiday for just £2, including meals. Today, in high season, a family of four would pay just over £200.

The 240-acre camp at Filey could cope with almost 11,000 guests at its busiest, with 1,100 seasonal staff and 100 permanent staff to cater for them. The Clacton camp, on 45 acres, could accommodate 6,000 holidaymakers, with 840 seasonal staff and 96 permanent employees.

Butlin's entertainment is still basically the same: a variety of exotic bars, cabaret, a ballroom with a 12-piece band, numerous talent and beauty contests, organized games for children, and the ubiquitous redcoats, striving to ensure that a good time is had by all.

But Mr Stewart said yesterday that the S-90 would not have achieved the reduced noise levels needed, lacked sufficient space, and did not meet requirements on speed and endurance.

Freeze rejected: A mass meeting of 1,300 shipyard men in Southampton yesterday overwhelmingly rejected a wage freeze plan by British shipbuilders. The men, who work for Vosper Thornycroft, also rejected demands for 2,000 redundancies in the industry and change in working practices.

Gummer is given pay rise for same job

Continued from page 1

Defence. Mr Stewart served previously as parliamentary private secretary to Sir Geoffrey Howe at the Treasury.

Mr Moore, whose new responsibilities include taxation, and Mr Stewart, who takes on monetary policy and privatisation, add to the Chancellor's hard-line economic views.

The only backbench promotion is the appointment of Mr John Lee as the replacement for Mr Stewart.

Mr Lee, MP for Fendle and parliamentary private secretary to Mr Parkinson until his resignation, is a chartered accountant. He will have responsibilities for defence procurement and equipment.

The final change is the promotion of Mrs Lynda Chalker, from Under Secretary to Minister of State at the Department of Transport.

Mr Gummer's pay rise was criticized by Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Clackmannan and Dorn, Valley, (the Press Association reports).

"I am tabling a question to the Prime Minister for answer when the Commons return next week, asking her how she can justify the taxpayer having to foot the bill for what is effectively a political job," he added.

Navy order for new type of anti-sub frigate

Continued from page 1

architects based at Bridport in the Isle of Wight. Thornycroft Giles and Associates, who challenged the entire naval establishment with claims that its short fat design - the S-90 - would meet the Navy's needs better than Type 23.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen attends the Annual National Service for Seafarers at St. Paul's Cathedral, 5.55.
Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Transport, visits 20 Squadron at Regent's Park Barracks, London.
Princess Alexandra opens the Burlington House Fair, the Antique

Dealers' Fair, at the Royal Academy of Arts, W1, 3.

New Exhibitions
Light an exhibition of oil paintings at the Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Nov 13).
Hospitalfield Summer School 1983: exhibition of work by the students at the Crawford Gallery, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Perth Road, Dundee, Mon to Fri 10 to 4 (ends Nov 2).

Last chance to see

Hangings by Theo Moorman; ceramics by Nicholas Homoky; pastels by Nick Andrew; and Private Mythe ceramic sculpture by Pauline Fowler, Crafts Gallery, 23 High Street, Oxford, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends today).

Music

Concert by Martin Hughes (violin), Martin Shillito (horn) and Alan Fearon (piano), Museum & Arts Centre, Durham.
Concert by the Budapest Trio, Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, 7.30.
Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.
Concert by the B. Wiggins Band, Carnegie Hall, Westhoughton, 8.

Gala Silver Jubilee Concert by the Northern Sinfonia of England, Parish Church, Stockton, 7.45.
Piano concert by Sofia Cosma, Leeds Institute Gallery, Civic Theatre, Cookridge Street, Leeds, 7.30.

Concert by the Consort of Music, the Derby Hall, Market Street, Bury, 7.30.

Talks and Lectures

Gaudier-Brezka and Vorticism, by Dr Richard Cork, Kettle's Yard Gallery, Northampton Street, Cambridge, 8.15.

Exploration of Five Continents by I. T. Bunyan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.

A ramble's history of the Darnley and Woodlands, by J. Byford, Highfield Library, London Road, Sheffield, 8.15.

Spa Water and the Spring, by Dr G. Kellaway, Banquet Room, Guildhall, Bath, 8.15.

Preserving Buildings, by Jennifer Costigan, Corinium Museum, Cirencester, 7.30.

Cardiac Pacemakers: today and tomorrow, by Dr M. Shah, MRCP, Large Lecture Theatre, Poynting Building, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, 11.

An introduction to Fungi, by Robert Taylor, Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster, 1.45.

General
Annual Autumn Fair, Church Refectory, Old Churchyard, Liverpool, 10.30 to 3, (and 20th Oct).

Norfolk Real Ale Festival, at Andrews Hall, Norwich, open 11 to 2.30 and 6 to 11 (until Saturday).

Exhibitions in progress
Watercolours by Louise Annand at the Torrance Gallery, 29B Dundas Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Fri 11 to 6, Sat 10.30 to 1 (ends Oct 22).
The Elements of Industry: Water, at the Museum and Art Gallery, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Mon to Sat 6.11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 1984).
Built in Scotland: work by 10 sculptors at the City Art Centre, Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Nov 12).

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
England, from the Reformation to the 18th century, by David L. Edwards (Collins, £12.95).
Frank Johnson's Election Year (Robson, £9.95).
The Great Northern Railway, by Richard Hurrell (Routledge and Kegan Paul, £14.95).
The Great Monumental Bronze Sculpture, by David Fine and Caroline Houser (Thames and Hudson, £18).
Networks, who we know and how we use them, by Tim Heald (Hodder, £9.95).
Sweet and Sour, an anthology of Comic Verse, edited by Christopher Logue (Penguin, £4.95).
The British Film Colony on Screen and off, by Sheridan Morley (Wendlandt and Nicolson, £10.95).
The Thrust into the Soviet Military Machine, by Andrew Cockburn (Hutchinson, £9.95).
Wodehouse Nuggets, selected by Richard Usborne (Hutchinson, £9.95).

The papers

The *Daily Mirror* contrasts the styles of Mr Callaghan and Mrs Thatcher on the subject of Russia. It says that since she became Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher has never been so close to the Soviet Union, nor have her foreign ministers. "Only a month ago Mrs Thatcher was presenting herself as the Cold War ice maiden. She has thawed since then. But not much. She still shouts at the Russians when she should be talking to them. When Mr Callaghan announced that he would visit Moscow, the Tories attacked him for agreeing to go into the bear's den. But he is treating the path that Mrs Thatcher should be walking." It adds that Mrs Thatcher has a reputation for not listening. "She should not apply her standards to Mr Andropov. Mr Callaghan's reputation is as a conciliator. If he achieves nothing else in Moscow, he can show the Russians that not all senior British politicians are the same."

The left-wing rabble who run the Greater London Council have decided that the Greenham Common "peace" women should have a wall mural extolling their cause. Not any wall. But one opposite the Imperial War Museum, says the *Daily Express*. "This museum recalls battles of the First and Second World Wars, fought by those who defended freedom, including the freedom of the Greenham women to demand unilateral nuclear disarmament and to indulge in perpetual protest."

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Roads

London and South-east A41: Traffic signals all day in Berkhamstead, Herts. A219: Stop/go boards off peak in Wimbledon Parkside. A26: Auto signals but no diversion for telephone work in Wokingham, Hants. A30: Delays in Henley in Arden High Street.

North: A1 (M): Continuity due to resurfacing of northbound carriageway inside lane. Blyth (Notts/Yorks border). A523: Diversion north of Macclesfield, Cheshire. M67: Outside lane closed in each direction at Hyde, Greater Manchester.

Wales and West: A494: Temporary lights at Theatre Cwyl, Mold, Clwyd. A39: Temporary lights in use either side of Wadbridge on Wadbridge to Ffynnon Road, Carmarthen, and along St Columba's pass. A390: Lane closures at Three Milestone by-pass, stop/go boards in use at Gramppan Village.

Scotland: M8: Outside lanes of both carriageways closed near junction 12 (Stirling). A76: Single line traffic with lights south of A719 junction near Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. A90: Contrailow on northbound lane, on Forth Road Bridge; only one lane off peak, allow extra time.

Information supplied by A.A.

Anniversaries
Births: St Thomas Browne, physician and author of *Religio Medici*, London, 1605 - he died at Norwich on his 77th birthday, Leigh Square, Wiltshire, 1682.
1784: Adam Lindsay Gordon, Australian poet, Fyvie, Ayrshire, 1833. Deaths: John (reigned 1199-1216), 1216. Jacobus Arminius, theologian, Leiden, The Netherlands, 1609. Sir Charles Wheatstone, physicist, Paris, 1875. Jonathan Swift, Dublin, 1743. Ernest, last Baron Rotherford, of Nelson, Cambridge, 1937.

The pound

Australia \$ 1.70 1.62
Austria Sch 28.50 26.90
Belgium Fr 33.00 31.00
Canada \$ 1.91 1.84
Denmark Kr 14.58 13.88
France Fr 12.20 11.70
Germany DM 4.01 3.82
Greece Dr 150.00 142.00
Hong Kong \$ 12.45 11.45
India Ru 90.00 80.00
Italy Lira 2435.00 2325.00
Japan Yen 365.00 347.00
Netherlands Gld 4.52 4.25
Norway Kr 11.37 10.80
Portugal Esc 194.00 183.00
South Africa Rd 1.50 1.40
Spain Pta 231.00 223.00
Sweden Kr 12.10 11.53
Switzerland Fr 3.27 3.10
USA \$ 1.54 1.49

Notes the full denomination bank notes only, as quoted by Reuters Bank International Ltd.

Retail Price Index: 339.5
London: The FT index closed up 0.6 at 678.2.

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Italy Lira 2435.00 2325.00
Japan Yen 365.00 347.00
Netherlands Gld 4.52 4.25
Norway Kr 11.37 10.80
Portugal Esc 194.00 183.00
South Africa Rd 1.50 1.40
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Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure over Southern England will move away southwards introducing a showery northwesterly airstream to all parts.

Gam to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, East Angles, Channel Islands: Cloudy with rain at times, becoming brighter and drier later; wind W fresh or strong; max temp 12 to 13C (54 to 55F).

E, W Midlands, S Wales: Rain early, sunny periods and scattered showers developing; wind W fresh or strong; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).

E, central N, NE England: Sunny periods, showers developing; wind W strong; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals and blustery showers, some heavy, especially on coasts and hills; wind NW strong or gale; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).

Border, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Blustery showers and some longer outbreaks of rain, but some sunny intervals; wind NW strong or gale; max temp 9 or 10C (48 to 50F).

Forecast for tomorrow and Friday: Showers drying out, becoming less windy with frost at night, but cloudier in N and W.

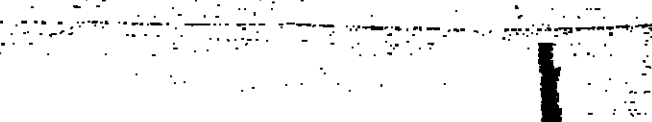
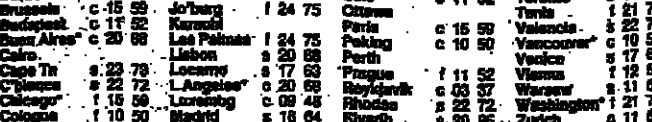
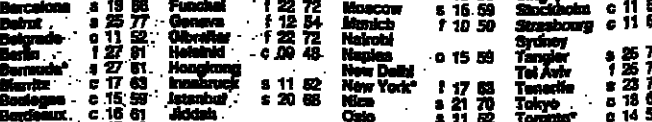
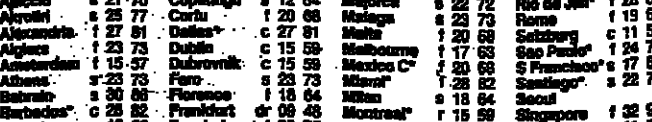
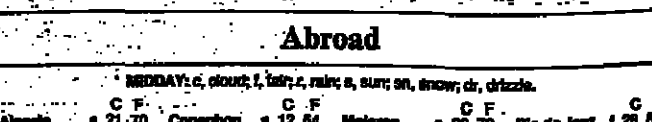
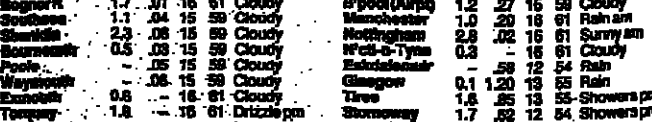
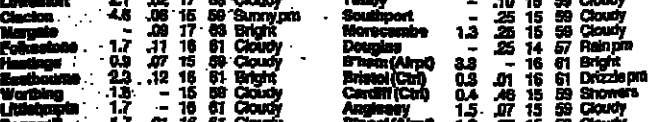
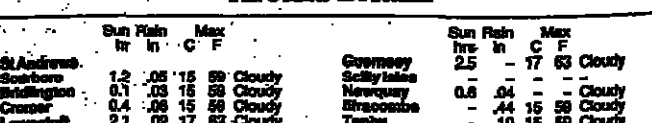
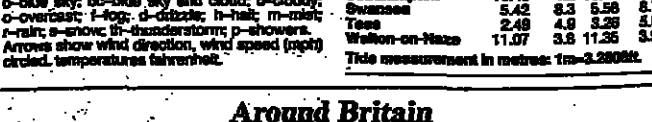
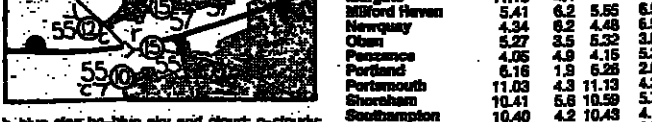
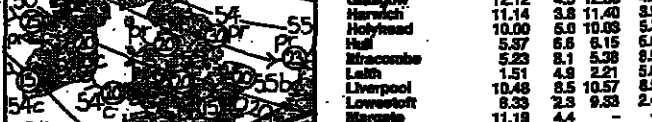
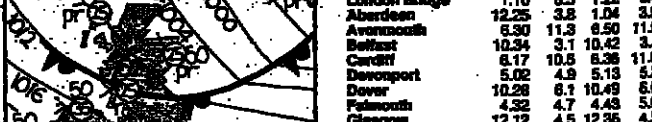
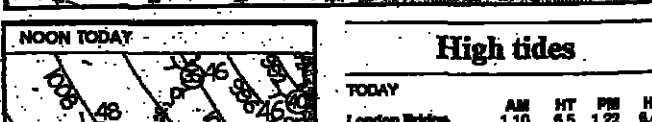
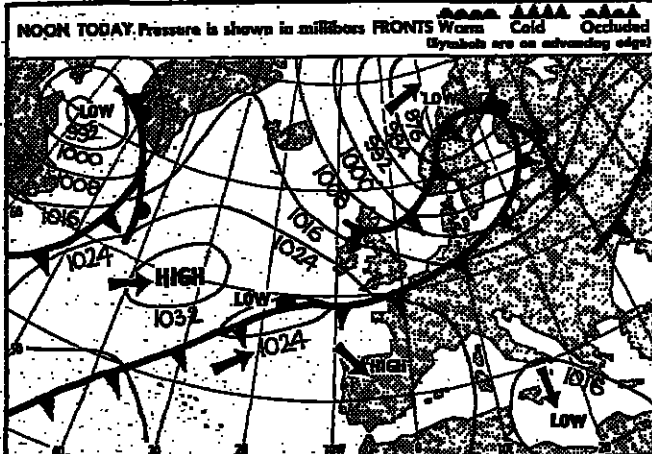
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Windy west backing SW, strong to gale, moderating sea rough, moderating swell. St. George's Channel (E): Windy west backing SW, strong to gale, becoming moderate; sea rough becoming moderate. Irish Sea: Wind W, strong, locally gale at night sea rough.

Lighting-up time
Today: 6.30 pm to 7.02 am
Bristol 6.40 pm to 7.12 am
Edinburgh 6.54 pm to 7.24 am
Manchester 6.55 pm to 7.21 am
Perth 6.54 pm to 7.21 am

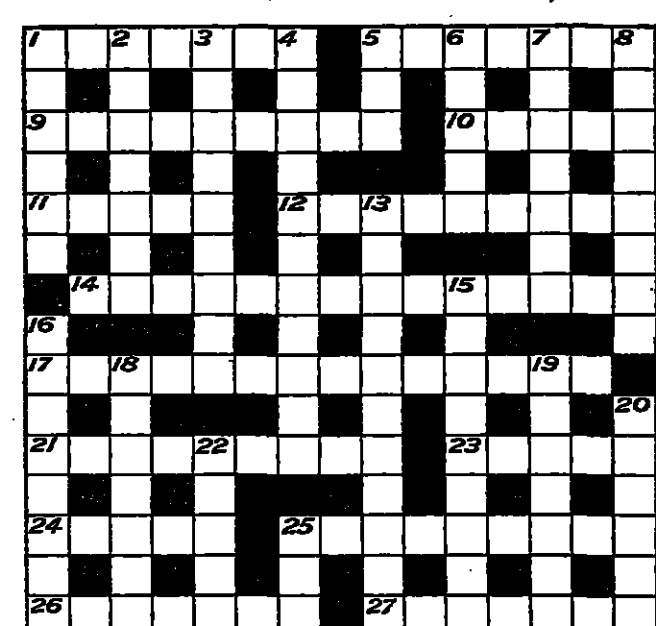
Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; S, sun; W, wind; D, drizzle.

London
Yesterday: Temp: min 6 am to 8 pm, 10C (50F); max 6 pm to 8 pm, 11C (52F). Wind: 77 per cent. Rain: 24% to 6 pm, a trace. Sun: 0% to 6 pm, 1.5 hr, mean sun 1.5 hr. Highest: 15.5C, mean: 10.0C, lowest: 8.5C.

Highest and lowest
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay (10.04F); lowest day temp: Llanelli (11.05F). Highest night temp: Glasgow, 1.2C; lowest night temp: Aberdeen, 5.5F.



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,264



ACROSS

- One of a sharply opposed pair (7).
- What a Hungarian may hand round at table (7).
- Crazy US bidders paid this (9).
- Aggressive consumer on the line? (5).
- Lancing and Harrow initially provide cultivation (5).
- Make face clean, then remove growth (3,3,3).
- Sort of stoppage he deals with irritates the nose (7-7).
- Kind of communication not subject to jamming (5-3-6).
- Tense, as seconds are (9).
- Gift dispenses of a landmark in Islington (5).
- Puts in, or takes out, creases (5).
- Prom in entertaining first half is outstanding (9).
- Like the resources of one we can only touch for a bob (7).

DOWN

- Stayed, we hear, to settle down (6).
- Having a wet exterior, and narrow